

## Department of Communication Studies Fall 2016 Faculty Activities and Accomplishments Report

In September, **David Gracon** served as a film programmer for the Basilica Soundscape at the Hudson Basilica located in Hudson, New York. The Basilica Soundscape is an internationally recognized independent music and art festival. **David** programmed the film and video works of the late Tony Conrad, a pioneer of experimental film and video, for this event.

In October, **David** screened several short works from the Ordinary Video Series at the New Art Film Festival (NAFF) located in Champaign, Illinois. He screened “Between Borders” and “Snow Walk.”

In September, **David** finalized the construction of the Ordinary Video Series DVD. He authored (digitally constructed, built) the DVD, had it professionally duplicated and finalized the handmade packaging. He is currently seeking a distributor for the work.

**David** was a facilitator of EIU Reads in August.

**Claudia Janssen Danyi** received a Redden Grant (\$705) to pursue accreditation by the Public Relations Society of America.

**Rich Jones** presented on the following panels at the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association Conference in Lisle in September 2016: “Mentor/Mentee Fresh! Establishing and Evolving Mentor Relationships in Higher Education” and “Teaching Critical Thinking Across the Discipline.” In addition, **Rich**, along with **Linda Scholz** and **Steve Brantley**, received a Redden Grant to purchase materials for the library to enhance the department’s new minor in Communication and Cultural Diversity.

In the area of professional service, **Rich** was invited to join the editorial board for *Communication Teacher*. He also continued to serve as the Higher Education Chair for the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association’s Board of Directors, assisting with the planning of the annual conference in September.

**Rich** remains dedicated to the performing arts. He performed in the interactive murder mystery *Spy Games* with Central Illinois Stage Company and was the producer and set designer for Charleston Community Theatre’s fall production – *The Queen of Bingo*. **Rich** also continued to serve on the Board of Directors for the Charleston Community Theatre.

**Stephen King** and **P. Renee Foster** presented, “‘Leaving Country Music to White Folk’: Narratives from Contemporary African American Country Music Artists on Race and Country Music” at the 2016 National Communication Association (NCA) conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Ryan McDaniel** published an article in the online journal called *The Wheel*.

McDaniel, R. (2016). "The Tale of the Wayward Priest." *The Wheel*, 7, 43.

He also participated in a video production on suicide prevention. The video, "Prevention Awareness," was produced for 126th ARW at Scott Air Force Base.

**Andrew Robinson** raised funds for fire victims of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. He also 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** served as Illinois District Chairman to the Apostolic World Christian Fellowship and routinely trained a group of pastors and assistant pastors. He performed a funeral ceremony, pre-marriage and post-marriage, and baptisms. He routinely counsels 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 worked the Association of Campus Ministers table during freshman debut over two days. **Andrew** continues remodeling a house he purchased in Mattoon, which he intends to provide as a parsonage/home for two ACTS Campus Ministry assistant pastors. He managed an ACTS end-of-semester Pack the House celebration in Buzzard Auditorium enabling minority students to express their spiritual passion through their combined talents. **Andrew** serves as a Faculty Fellow and campus minister liaison to Thomas Hall.

**Andrew** taught 45 faculty from various universities in an Illinois Online Network Course entitled "Instructional Design for Online Learning." He supervised two internships, one for a Communication Studies major and a second for a Family Consumer Science major. **Andrew** served on two thesis committees.

**Chigozirim Utah** and **Dongjing Kang** presented "How Dialogical are We Really? Insights Gleaned from (Un)dialogical Moments" at the 2016 NCA conference in Philadelphia. The essay was included on the top paper panel for the organization's Critical and Cultural Studies Division. **Chigozirim** was awarded EIU's Interdisciplinary Center for Global Diversity Faculty Award.