

Department of Communication Studies

Student Activities and Accomplishments Report

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

Graduate

Awards

Clinton Brown was selected as the 2014 Illinois Communication and Theatre Association (ICTA) Norton Higher Education Student Award Winner. He was also named to the ICTA Board of Directors as the Student Representative.

Amanda Feder and **Emily Vajjala** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the department's Scholarship and Awards Ceremony in April.

Amanda Feder also won the Graduate School Distinguished Graduate Student Award for the department.

Amanda Feder, Emily Vajjala, Nate Furstenau and **Ethan Kruger** all received Williams Travel Grants from the Graduate School.

All of the graduate students listed in the graduate section of this report received TSA-GIA funding.

Conference Presentations/Panels (Peer Reviewed)

In April, **Amanda Feder** presented "Fighting Business with Business: The Construction of the Vulnerable and Exploited Third World Woman in the Not for Sale Campaign" at the Central States Communication Association Conference (CSCA). The paper examined the construction of the "vulnerable Third World Woman" by communicative labor of the Not for Sale Campaign. A month later, **Amanda** presented "On the Edge: Breaking Down the Borders of Agenda Setting in Relation to the Femicides of Ciudad Juárez" at the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

At the CSCA conference, **Nate Furstenau** presented "Maternity Leave as a Site of Difference: A Consideration for Mothers and Families."

At the RSA conference, **Ethan Kruger** participated on a paper panel entitled, "Approaches to the Rhetoric of War." Focusing on presidential rhetoric, **Ethan's** paper, "Ideological War: Presidential Rhetoric Creating Borders" suggested criteria for a new "conflict" genre of presidential rhetoric based on Cold War and War on Terror speeches.

Emily Vajjala presented two papers at the CSCA conference: “Beauty and Gender Ideologies: How the Miss Universe Pageant Perpetuates Feminine Stereotypes” and “Colonializing Factors in Internet Rhetoric: Postcolonial and Transnational Feminist Themes from the Reporting of the Murder of Kapari Leniata.”

Three graduate students attended the ICTA conference in September. **Stephanie Gruner**, **John Kraps**, and **Emily Vajjala** participated on a panel that explored new ideas for teaching the basic course.

Pedagogy

In January, **Amanda Feder**, **Nate Furstenau**, **John Kraps**, and **Emily Vajjala** attended the Basic Course Directors Conference in Dayton, Ohio.

Amanda Feder was a guest speaker for the Nursing 385: Concepts and Processes of Population Focused Nursing course at the University of Illinois. She discussed a range of topics related to human trafficking, including the myths of trafficking and why trafficking occurs.

Undergraduate

Awards

Kallie Middleton (junior) won a national scholarship for students interested in radio broadcasting. **Kallie** is the recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship presented by the international music licensing company SESAC through the International Broadcasters IdeaBank. IdeaBank is an organization of commercial radio broadcasting owners and managers.

In the spring, the department sponsored the Doug Bock Undergraduate Research Contest. Named in honor of Dr. Doug Bock, chairperson of the department from 1983 to 2001, the contest is a research paper writing competition held each spring for students who were enrolled in Communication Research (CMN 2020) during the past academic year. This year's winners are:

- 1st place: **Michael Moy** (junior), “It Can Wait: Preventing Texting and Driving” (Dr. Rodney Marshall, associate professor)
- 2nd Place: **Corrine Ryan** (junior), “Re-acclimation After Study Abroad” (Dr. Angela Jacobs, assistant professor)
- 3rd Place: **Rosa Delaney** (junior), “Media Ecology and the Influence of New and Traditional Media” (Dr. Angela Jacobs, assistant professor)

In May, the department held its Multimedia Contest. The contest featured over 80 entries in six categories. **Kyle Fisher** (senior) and **Keith Sutterfield** (senior) each claimed first place in two categories. Other first place winners included **Jesse Guinn** (junior) in TV News and **Jessi Meyer** (junior) in Radio-PSA.

At the 2014 Scholarship and Awards ceremony, the following undergraduate students won the following awards:

- Outstanding Senior: **Anna Percival** (senior)
- Outstanding Junior: **Kelli Halfman** (senior)
- Inspired Achievement Award: **Malcolm Allen** (senior)

Presentations

Yasmine Lozano (junior) presented “Interpersonal Communication and the Digital Era” at EIU Spotlight (March 28) and NCUR (April 4).

Scholarships

At the Scholarship and Awards ceremony, the following students received scholarships:

- Ralph McGinnis Scholarship: **Mallory Winkeler**
- J. Glen Ross Scholarship: **Emma Bolinger**
- Carol Manhart Scholarship: **Kaitlin Corzine**
- Larry & Christine Helsel Scholarship: **Joryn-Alyssa Zeek-Lee**
- Betty Lou Balasi Scholarship: **Kelly Ann Hennessy**
- Raymond and Carolyn Miller-Fischer Scholarship: **Hannah Yarnell**
- Kenneth Hadwiger Undergraduate Scholarship: **Drew Borzi**
- Kenneth Hadwiger Graduate Scholarship: **Anna Percival**
- Jon J. Hopkins Scholarship: **Kelly Ann Hennessy**
- Jack L. Payan Scholarships: **Wade Dundee & Shelby Sandefer**
- Illinois Broadcasters Association Scholarship: **Margaret Langevin**

Speech Team

At the Litrenta Triangle Tournament at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois, **Austin Mejdrich** (freshman) was the tournament champion in Impromptu Speaking and placed third in Speech To Entertain.

Video/Film

Dain Miller (senior) produced three videos showing the success stories of EIU CMN graduates.

Chris Boswell (senior) completed his documentary film, “This is Honduras,” as part of his independent study for Spring 2014.

Keith Sutterfield completed his documentary film, “The Effingham Performance Center: Art at the Crossroads,” for his Honors Thesis project in the Spring of 2014. A screening for faculty was held on May 6th.

Dain Miller and **Keith Sutterfield** attended the National Association of Broadcasters Conference in Las Vegas.

WEIU (Radio/TV)

Students working at WEIU-TV News Watch won another Midwest Emmy Award for Best Student-Produced TV Newscast in Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.

At the Illinois News Broadcasters Association state convention, News Watch tied for first place for Best College TV Newscast in the state of Illinois. **Braden Harp** (senior) placed second for outstanding videography and **Savanna Tomei** (junior) placed third for outstanding TV reporting.

WEIU-TV News Watch also tied for first place for Best College TV Newscast in the state in the Illinois News Broadcasters Association's annual contest.

Workshops

Paul Allen (senior), **Kyle Fisher**, **Dain Miller** and **Keith Sutterfield** attended the DSLR Dynamics Video Workshop in St. Louis.

Kyle Fisher attended the Stillmotion Storytelling Workshop in Chicago. This workshop focused on storytelling documentary filmmaking and provided an opportunity to join the Stillmotion team for an in-the-field shoot.

Kyle Fisher, **Michael Moy**, and **Kayla Myers** (junior) attended the Vincent Laforet's Directing Motion Tour Workshop in St. Louis.

Alumni

Orion Buckingham (BA, 2010) of WLRW-FM in Champaign was a finalist in Medium Market Radio for Best Non-Humorous Commercial.

Michael Kiser (BA, 2006) of WDWS-FM in Champaign took first place in the Medium Market Radio category for Best Radio Series or Documentary. **Michael** was also a finalist for Best Radio News Reporter and Best Radio Spot News Coverage.

Jessica McDonald (MA, 2013) won the 2013 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from the College of Arts and Humanities.

Andy McLaughlin (MA, 2013) presented his documentary "A Soldier's Home" at the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association conference in Chicago and the What is Documentary? conference in Portland, Oregon.

Suzie Munson (BA, 2000) won a daytime Emmy as the producer for the Steve Harvey Show. Since she graduated from EIU, she has claimed three daytime Emmy nominations and two wins.

Travis Probst (BA, 2005) of WCIA-TV in Champaign won first place in Medium Market TV for Best Light Feature, and was a finalist for Best Local Program, Series, or Documentary.

Justin Ritz (BA, 2009) of WCSJ-FM in Morris, Illinois won first place in two Small Market Radio categories: Best Radio News Reporter and Best Radio Spot News Coverage.