

Department of Communication Studies
Fall 2015 Faculty Activities and Accomplishments Report
August 1 to December 31

In October, **David Gracon** screened his Various Ordinary Video Series Shorts at the Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center's 30th Anniversary Exhibition (Burchfield Penny Art Center, Buffalo, NY.). During the same month, David screened *Air, Acid Rain and Winter* (Ordinary Video Series Shorts) and a music video for the film "Sanctuary" at the New Art Film Festival (Champaign, Illinois).

In addition, **David** coordinated the Social Docs! Screening Series as part of the Embarras Valley Film Festival. The Social Docs! featured social justice oriented documentary works by Angela Aguayo, Julie Perini, Jodi Darby, Erin Yanke and Carol Huang. Each screening included a Q&A discussion. **David** also continued his participation with EIU Reads.

Elizabeth Gill published an essay in the *Western Journal of Communication*:

Gill, E., & Frank, J. B. (2015). The negotiated identities of long-term inmates: Breaking the chains of problematic integration. *Western Journal of Communication*, 79(5): 513-532.

Marita Gronnvoll published a book chapter in an interdisciplinary anthology:

Gronnvoll, M. (2016). John F. Kennedy: Civil rights. In J. S. Ashley and M. J. Jarmer (Eds.), *The bully pulpit, presidential speeches, and the shaping of public policy* (pp. 115-124). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Marita was also awarded a sabbatical for the Spring 2017 semester.

Angela Jacobs published a book chapter in *Casing Sports Communication*:

Jacobs, A. (2016). Sports versus church: The dilemma of choosing sides. In D. Tucker & J. S. Wrench (Eds.) *Casing Sports Communication* (pp. 111-120). Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt.

In addition, **Angie** presented her research, "Breaking the Silence: Promoting Open and Candid Talk about Suicide," at the Thomas A. Bonine Suicide Awareness & Prevention Conference at Eastern Illinois University. She also conducted a workshop on interpersonal self-disclosure for the Lake Land TRiO program as well as attended a faculty development workshop for "At-Risk" college students to assess their health and suicide risks.

Students enrolled in three communication courses (**Angela Jacobs**; Interpersonal Communication; **Elizabeth Gill**, Advanced Interpersonal Communication and **T. M. Linda Scholz**; Communication, Race and Ethnicity) joined together to present stories at a university-wide event: "This is EIU: Layered Stories of Community, Its Challenges and Its

Potential.” The three classes collected stories from students, faculty and staff, and local community members and formally presented these stories in front of an audience of over 250 participants.

Claudia Janssen Danyi received a CFR research grant for her research project “Communication Managers’ Experiences in Organizational Crises: Navigating Tensions between Individual and Organizational Interests and Concerns.” In addition, **Claudia** was awarded a Redden Grant (together with Steve Brantley—Booth Library) for a digital case study platform to support the resources available to CMN 4920: Case Studies in Public Relations.

Claudia served as a reviewer for *Management Communication Quarterly* and concluded her four-year term on the Associate Editorial Review Board for the journal *Communication Studies*. She continued to serve as a member of the advisory board for the undergraduate and graduate public relations programs at the HTW Berlin.

On campus, she was appointed to the International Education Council (IEC) as one of two CAH representatives and served on the search committee for the Associate Director of International Student Recruitment.

Rich Jones won an Achievement and Contribution Award in the “balanced” category which recognizes achievement in teaching, research and service.

Rich presented on two panels at the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association Conference (September, Bloomington, IL). The panels were: “Meeting Students in the Middle: Social Emotional Learning as a Pedagogical Tool in the Communication Classroom” and “Defining, Implementing, and Assessing the General Education Learning Outcomes of Oral Communication.”

Rich presented on two panels at the Bridging Voices in Our Community: Bullying Prevention Project Conference (October, Charleston, IL). The panels were: “Racial Bullying: Can Minority Students Survive and Thrive in the Academy? Yes!” and “Social Emotional Learning Roundtable Discussions: Community Policing, Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence, Diversity and Inclusion, and Dialogue and Negotiation.”

Rich also presented during two sessions at New Faculty Orientation (August, Charleston, IL). The sessions were: “Making Excellence Inclusive at EIU” and “General Education and Learning Goals at EIU.”

Rich continued his service to community theatre. He serves on the board of directors for the Charleston Community Theatre and did set and sound design for their fall show, *Three Days of Rain*. He also performed in the show *Monster Mash Murders* which was presented through the Central Illinois Stage Company as a fundraiser for the Lifespan Center.

At the National Communication Association conference, **Stephen A. King** and Roger Gatchet (West Chester University, Pennsylvania) co-presented “Music and Public Memory:

Transcending the Past at the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center.” The essay won a Top Faculty Paper Award from the African American Communication and Culture Division. At the conference, **Stephen** also completed a short course on directing a communication internship. In addition, King published a book chapter on blues tourism:

King, S. A. (2015). Mississippi blues tourism: history, marketing strategies and tourism goals. In J. M. Collins (Ed.), *Defining the delta: Interdisciplinary perspectives on the lower Mississippi River* (pp. 203-217). Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press.

Ryan McDaniel published a book review in the online journal *The Wheel*:

McDaniel, R. (2015). For the unity of all: A prayer worth reviewing [Review of the book *For the unity of all: Contributions to the theological dialogue between east and west*, by J. P. Manoussakis (2015)]. *The Wheel*, 3, 59-63.

Andrew Robinson authored new curriculum and designed three courses for Christ Ministries School of Divinity. Nine students graduated from this program and were ordained as clergy. Subsequently, he began training five new ministerial candidates. **Andrew** continues to serve as Volunteer Pastor and Faculty Advisor to ACTS Campus Ministry, where he has been highly effective in building bridges across racial and cultural divides. He expanded the ACTS Campus Ministry to the University of Illinois on August 30th and installed a husband and wife team as pastors for the work. **Andrew** planned, coordinated, and hosted through ACTS an end-of-semester Pack the House celebration in Buzzard Auditorium enabling minority students to express their spiritual passion through their combined talents. He was also promoted to the highly esteemed office of Bishop within the AWCF organization of ministers. **Andrew** serves as a Faculty Fellow to Thomas Hall and Campus Minister Liaison to Thomas Hall and the African American Greek Fraternities and Sororities. **Andrew** performed one marriage ceremony and pre-marriage and post-marriage counseling for several student couples. He routinely counsels students regarding relationships, family, crisis of faith, and terminal illness. **Andrew** also advised a College of Student Affairs graduate student regarding her thesis on campus ministries' influence on student success and advised an internship for a business major.

Brian Sowa was awarded a sabbatical for the Fall 2016 semester.