

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

David Gracon began his year-long U.S. Fulbright Scholarship in September and has since been fulfilling his teaching based project of critical media literacy at Precarpathian National University in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. This was preceded by a two-day orientation at the U.S. Embassy in Kiev where he was provided with a cultural overview and the current socio-political situation in the country.

During this time he taught two undergraduate courses in Introduction to Media Studies and a graduate seminar on Media Literacy. **David's** Media Literacy graduate seminar culminated in a strongly attended and lively student-led community presentation/workshop at *Window on America* (a local library branch affiliated with the U.S. Embassy) titled *Media Literacy Now!* in December. **David** also presented three guest lectures at Precarpathian National University on the topics of Media Globalization, Travel and Globalization and Basic Filmmaking. He also presented three visiting guest lectures at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv on Documentary and Truth, the Punk Subculture and Experimental Film (where he also screened some of his own works such as the *Ordinary Video Series*, *Unreal is Here* and discussed the *Tuff Stuff from the Buff* Film and Video tour) in November.

In terms of research and creative work, **David** screened his retrospective film and video program *Amateur Versus Professional (1997-2017)* along with a question/answer session at Precarpathian National University in October. In December, **David** organized and hosted *DIY Night* at the local venue *Urban Space 100* where he presented and screened his documentary *Walls of Sound — A Look Inside the House of Records (2012)* and also programmed the performance of three Ukrainian punk and metal groups.

In December **David** presented his essay "You're Nothing — Punk and Death" at the First Global Conference: Music and Death organized by Progressive Connexions — Interdisciplinary Life in Vienna, Austria (the essay can be accessed at: <http://www.progressiveconnexions.net/interdisciplinary-projects/music-and/music-and-death/conferences/abstracts-and-papers/>). He also served as a facilitator and gave introductory comments at the Terrorism: Tendencies, Forecasts and Solutions student conference at Precarpathian National University in November.

In October, **Angela Jacobs** presented a paper entitled, "The 'Othering' of Suicide: An Examination of the Discourse Surrounding Suicide" at the 40th annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, & Gender in Omaha,

Nebraska. During the same month, she also presented a workshop entitled, “Small Group Dynamics” at the annual Small Groups Conference hosted by Broadway Christian Church, Mattoon, Illinois.

Rich Jones received an Achievement and Contribution Award in the balanced category. He was also awarded a sabbatical for Spring 2019.

Rich presented the following panel at the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association Conference in September in Peoria Illinois:

- Resilient Pedagogy: How to Create Innovative and Effective Curricula, Instructional Strategies, Classroom Climates, and Assessments

Rich continued to teach dual credit CMN 1310G – Introduction to Speech Communication at area high schools including: Casey-Westfield High School, Altamont High School, Arcola High School, Mt. Zion High School, Okaw Valley High School, Monticello High School, Shelbyville High School, Villa Grove High School, and Arthur/Atwood/Hammond/Lovington High School.

The second edition of **Rich’s** textbook, *Communication in the Real World*, was published by Flat World Knowledge.

In the area of service, **Rich** was the chair of the conference planning team for EIU’s Making Excellence Inclusive inaugural conference that was held on campus in October. The conference theme was “Together We RISE: Reaching Inclusivity through Student Excellence.” In other service news, **Rich** was appointed to the Board of Trustees for The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois. He also continued to serve as President of the Board of Directors for Charleston Community Theatre.

Stephen King and **Roger Gatchet** (West Chester University) presented “Marking the Past: Civil Rights Tourism and the Mississippi Freedom Trail” at the National Communication Association (NCA) convention in Dallas, Texas. **Stephen** also reviewed for NCA’s Rhetoric and Public Address Division. In October, **Stephen’s** book chapter on protest music was published in *Social Controversy and Public Address in the 1960s and Early 1970s*:

King, S. A. (2017). People get ready: The civil rights movement, protest music, and the rhetoric of resistance. In Richard J. Jensen (Ed.), *Social controversy and public address in the 1960s and early 1970s: The rhetorical history of the United States* (Volume 9) (pp. 251-290). East Lansing: Michigan State University Press.

Ryan McDaniel delivered a joint lecture with his wife (**Michele McDaniel**, Reference Librarian at Booth Library) in September. The lecture was entitled “Dark Arts and Other Wicked Ideas: Harry Potter, Banned Books, and Intellectual Freedom.” This lecture was given as a part of an exhibit and program series entitled “Twenty Years of Harry Potter: Celebrating a Phenomenon” at Booth Library.

At the NCA conference, **Chigozirim Sodeke** presented the essay, “Hidden in Plain Sight: A Phenomenology of Street Traders.” **Chigozirim** and co-author **Dongjing Kang** (Florida Gulf Coast University) published an article in the interdisciplinary journal, *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*:

Kang, D., & Sodeke, C. U. (2017). How dialogical are we really? Insights gleaned from (un)dialogical moments. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*, 6(4), 47-69.

Andrew Robinson voluntarily teaches and trains ministers toward ordination and receiving their divinity degree, serves as Illinois District Chairman to the Apostolic World Christian Fellowship, and routinely trains a group of pastors and assistant pastors. He performed various counseling duties and baptisms. **Andrew** conducted a funeral service for a friend in September. He continues to volunteer as Pastor and Faculty Advisor to ACTS Campus Ministry. He established and installed pastors for two new churches in Illinois and one new ACTS Campus Ministry at the University of Texas Arlington. **Andrew** served as a Faculty Fellow and campus minister liaison to Thomas Hall. He also taught three sections of a course for the Illinois Online Network Course entitled “Instructional Design for Online Course Development.”

Scott Walus published a book chapter on narrative and ideology:

Walus, S. W. (2017). The narrative machine: Constructing narratives and deconstructing ideology. In J. Seiter, J. Peeples, & M. Sanders (Eds.), *Communication in the classroom: A collection of GIFTS*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's.

As the faculty advisor for the RSO, Alternative Television and Film Club (ALT TV), **Scott** advised and co-produced Alt TV episode 11 and held a successful and well-attended public screening of it in downtown Charleston. Episode 11 includes work from not only undergraduate and graduate communication studies students, but also biology, math, engineering, and English students.

WORK IN PROGRESS

During his sabbatical, **David Gracon** has been commissioned to teach and is preparing for a two-day intensive media literacy workshop for Ukrainian professors from around the country at *America House* in Kiev for the eventual nationwide instruction of a Media Literacy MOOC affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition, during the month of December, **David Gracon** conducted a significant overhaul (editors needed a condensed version) of his book chapter research titled “Through Being Cool: The Critical Political Economy of iTunes 2003-2012” (2018) that will eventually be published via Routledge. **David** also wrote (and is currently editing) an essay for the Champaign-Urbana film and video magazine *CU Confidential* titled “The Wall is a Screen: Reflecting on Hallways Microcinema” that will be published in 2018.

Stephen King and **Roger Gatchet** are working on an essay about the history of civil rights tourism in Mississippi.