

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

David Gracon continued his U.S. Fulbright Scholarship and media literacy project at Precarpathain National University in Ivano Frankivsk, Ukraine. He taught two classes titled *Experiments in Media* (one MA level, one undergraduate) where the student-generated projects merged critical media theory with digital production practices. He is also a co-organizer of the university-wide English Speaking Club that meets on a weekly basis where he leads discussions on various film and television texts at *Paragraph Student Space*.

David also led a two-day intensive media literacy workshop for Ukrainian professors from around the country in a nationwide initiative and online MOOC titled *English for Media Literacy*. This course was in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Department of State and it occurred at America House in Kyiv on March 2-3. As a result of training the university professors, the course has granted media literacy certificates to hundreds of students around Ukraine.

David gave a presentation at the U.S. Fulbright Student Retreat/Conference in Kyiv titled: *Media Literacy Now! Reflections on Media Literacy Practices in Ivano-Frankivsk* on March 26-27. He also facilitated a workshop on how to critically analyze a TV commercial with the Fulbright student participants as well as students and faculty from V.I.Vernadsky Taurida National University (also where the retreat/conference took place), a displaced university from the occupied territory of Crimea now located in Kyiv. He conducted several guest lectures and a documentary film short course as well.

David visited Zhytomyr State University (in Zhytomyr, Ukraine) and provided the lectures: *Documentary as a Representation of Truth* and *Introduction to Media Literacy* on March 30th. David delivered the short course *Experiments in Documentary* at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv (in two parts: March 28-29, May 2-4). The students produced documentary shorts that culminated in the group screening: *Places Festival*. He also gave a guest lecture entitled *Mobile Documentary Practices* at Free International University of Moldova in Chisinau, Moldova on April 21.

David was a co-organizer, along with his MA students, of the *Media Literacy for a Critical World* student conference at Precarpathian National University on May 10th.

He was also a co-organizer of *The European Union and United States: Methods of Cooperation in the New Geopolitical Reality* conference on March 15th. At both conferences, **David** gave introductory remarks, organized the panels/program, and was interviewed by the local news.

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He completed a two-week intensive course in Ukrainian language and culture in Lviv (January 8-19) where he received a certificate from the Ukrainian Language and Culture School.

In terms of creative works and research, **David** completed the following short documentary videos: *Media Literacy Now!* and *Street Tapes — Media Literacy in Ivano Frankivsk*. He created an *Ordinary Video Series* (Remix/Trailer) as well. His short documentary video *We Ride Bikes! (2001)* screened (with a \$50 screening award) at Squeaky Wheel: Film and Media Art Center for the *Bring your own Tony* event in Buffalo, New York on May, 11th. The event is a celebration of experimental filmmaker and musician Tony Conrad. **David** published the essay *Homecoming* for the online *Flaherty Stories* series edited by Patty Zimmerman of Ithaca College (this will eventually be chapter in a book).

Claudia Janssen Danyi presented a Great Idea for Teaching (The Tweetfolio) at the Central States Communication Association conference (CSCA) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The activity was selected as a Top 5 G.I.F.T. this year. She also received a College of Arts and Humanities travel grant. In the area of service, **Claudia** was elected to the Council on Academic Affairs.

Rich Jones reviewed manuscripts for a special issue of the *Popular Culture Studies Journal* on monstrosity and monsters.

Rich continued to teach dual credit CMN 1310G – Introduction to Speech Communication at area high schools including: Heritage High School, Arthur/Atwood/Hammond/Lovington High School, Mt. Zion High School, Monticello High School, and Kansas High School. He also continued to serve as the dual credit speech coordinator for District 214 in the Chicago suburbs.

In the area of service, **Rich** directed the play *God of Carnage* for the Charleston Community Theatre. He also did the set and sound design for the show. In addition, **Rich** continued to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Charleston Community Theatre and on the Board of Trustees for Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan

Stephen King and **Roger Gatchet** (West Chester University, Pennsylvania) presented, “Remembering Emmett Till in Mississippi Civil Rights Tourism” at the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) conference in Nashville, Tennessee. **Stephen** presented a longer version of this paper at the 2018 Communication Day event. **Stephen** reviewed manuscripts for NCA’s Public Address

Division as well as for *Rock Music Studies* (he is a member of the journal's editorial board). **Stephen** and **Roger** published two articles this spring:

King, S. A. & Gatchet, R. D. (2018). Marking the past: Civil rights tourism and the Mississippi freedom trail. *Southern Communication Journal* 83(2): 103-118.

Gatchet, R. D. & King, S.A. (2018). "I call him father of us all': Vicarious transcendence at the B.B. King Museum and delta interpretive center. *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 15(1): 53-69.

Andrew Robinson was elected President of EIU's Association of Campus Ministers. He performed the wedding ceremony for an EIU alumna in Atlanta, Georgia, established a new ACTS Campus Ministry at Danville Area Community College, served as Faculty Fellow, presented at the MLK, Jr., Memorial Day Service and presented on an alumni conference marriage panel. **Andrew** voluntarily teaches and trains ministers toward ordination and receiving their divinity degree through Christ Ministries School of Divinity. **Andrew** continued to serve as Illinois District Chairman to the Apostolic World Christian Fellowship and routinely trains a group of pastors and assistant pastors. He also continued 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. **Andrew** taught two sections of a course for the Illinois Online Network entitled "Instructional Design for Online Learning."

WORK IN PROGRESS

David Gracon revised the essay, "The Wall is a Screen: Reflections on Hallways Microcinema," for the zine *CU Confidential* to be published this summer. David's book chapter research on the political economy of iTunes has also been revised and submitted.

Claudia Janssen Danyi's book chapter, "Strategic Social Media Management for NGOs" (with **Dr. Vidhi Chaudri**, Erasmus University Rotterdam) will be published in the *Handbook of Communication for Development and Social Change*.

Rich Jones began writing his second textbook, *Our Communication, Our World*, which will be published by Flat World Knowledge in December of 2018.

Stephen King and **P. Renee Foster's** book chapter, "'Leave Country Music to White People?': Narratives from Contemporary African American Country Artists on Race and

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Music,” will be published in the forthcoming book: *The Honky Tonk on the Left: Progressive Thought in Country Music* (University of Massachusetts Press, June 2018).