

# COMMUNICATION STUDIES

STUDENT REPORT: 2016-2017

## GRADUATE PROGRAM

### Awards

- ✓ **Kelli Halfman** was named the department's 2017 Distinguished Graduate Student.
- ✓ **Kelli Halfman** was also named as the department's Outstanding Graduate Student for the 2016-2017 academic year.
- ✓ **Olubusola Akinpelu** was named the department's 2017 Distinguished International Student.
- ✓ **Brandon Goodman** was awarded a \$300 Research and Creative Activity Grant for his thesis work titled: "Support for Family And Friends of Incarcerated Loved Ones."
- ✓ **Allison Grussing** was awarded a \$60 Research and Creative Activity Grant for her thesis work titled: "Steven Avery, A Case Study: Making a Murderer or Making an Identity."
- ✓ **Anna Percival** was awarded the MAGS Excellence in Teaching award for the 2016 academic year.
- ✓ **Clinton Brown** was named as the Distinguished Graduate Student and to the Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars in 2016.
- ✓ Three graduate students (**Jamie Alexander**, **Jaccari Brown**, and **Bianca Tomlin**) were awarded Williams Travel Grants to present at regional and national communication conferences.
- ✓ **Kelli Halfman** participated in the internal graduate student mentorship program where 2nd year students are paired with 1st year students. **Kelli** also spoke at the Graduate Alumni Board Meeting and at the Graduate Fall Summit about her mentoring experience.
- ✓ **Tiffany Wayne** participated in the Graduate School's Alumni Mentorship program during the 2016-2017 academic year.

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- ✓ **Jaccari Brown** participated in the internal graduate student mentorship program where 2nd year students are paired with 1st year students.

## Presentations

- ✓ **Allison Grussing** participated in a poster session at the Graduate School Expo by presenting her thesis titled "Steven Avery, A Case Study: Making a Murderer or Making an Identity."
- ✓ **Brandon Goodman** participated in a Poster Session at the Graduate School Expo by presenting his thesis work titled "Support for Family and Friends of Incarcerated Loved Ones."
- ✓ **Raya Petty** presented a Professional Development Workshop at EIU titled "Working with Underprivileged Students."
- ✓ Departmental Thesis presentations: The following students participated in a departmental colloquium series where they presented their thesis research: **Kelli Halfman, Ryan Howard, Wade Dundee, Anna Richardson, Connor Wilcox, Brandon Goodman, Allison Grussing, Nathan Bryant.**

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

## Awards and Scholarships

1. Communication Studies students/alumni placed at the Illinois News Broadcasters Association Award Ceremony:
  - ✓ **Katlyn Quill** [2016 graduate] (2nd place for Best Radio Longform Programming)
  - ✓ **Lacey Clifton** (2nd place for Best TV Weathercast)
  - ✓ **Jesse Guinn** (3rd place for Best TV Weathercast).
  - ✓ In addition, WEIU News Watch won a 3rd place award for Outstanding TV Newscast.
2. **Jesse Guinn** was awarded a Regional Student Emmy Award for his work as an on-air talent in Weather Forecasting and News Anchoring at WEIU-TV.

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3. At the Scholarship and Awards Ceremony in April 2017, **Dr. Angela Jacobs** inducted four new members to Lambda Pi Eta (**Maria Baldwin, Rachel Crutcher, Maria DeVito and Brianna Welk**).

The following Lambda Pi Eta members were presented cords to wear at graduation: **Jamie Baumgartner, Alex (AJ) Seidler, Colleen Danaher, McKenna Smith, Rachelle Krausen, Robyn McKeown.**

4. **Catie Witt** received the EIU Distinguished Senior Award. She is a double major (Communication Studies: PR option; second major: Political Science). She also served as elected student president for EIU's student body.
5. In the spring, the department sponsored the Doug Bock Undergraduate Research Contest. Named in honor of **Dr. Doug Bock**, chair 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 Methods (CMN 3000) during the past academic year. This year's winners are:
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Lauren Eberle** (Faculty: **Dr. Andrew Robinson**)
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Makenzie Hayden** (Faculty: **Dr. Rodney Marshall**)
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Rachelle Krausen** (Faculty: **Dr. Rodney Marshall**)
6. In May, the department held its annual Multimedia Contest. Coordinated by **Ms. Carrie Wilson-Brown**, students submitted their work in multiple categories:

Creative:

- ✓ 1st Place: **Aquintis Williams**
- ✓ 2nd Place: **Melissa Meiselman**
- ✓ 3rd Place: **Elazia Key**

Radio Ad/PSA:

- ✓ 1st Place: **Derek Linzy**
- ✓ 2nd Place: **Manuel Almanza**
- ✓ 3rd Place: **James Bateman**

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Video Ad/PSA:

- ✓ 1st Place: **James Bateman**
- ✓ 2nd Place: **Steven Kinnison**
- ✓ 3rd Place: **Abbie Watton**

News:

- ✓ 1st Place: **Jesse Guinn**
- ✓ 2nd Place: **Charlee Caudill**
- ✓ 3rd Place: **Kennedi Carodine**

Web Design:

- ✓ 1st Place: **Ichiro Ohira**
- ✓ 2nd Place: **Cole Scanlon**
- ✓ 3rd Place: **Steven Kinnison**

Documentary:

- ✓ 1st Place: **Derek Wunder**
- ✓ 2nd Place: **Jesse Guinn**
- ✓ 3rd Place: **David Travis & Michael Leroose**

## Communication Scholars

**Lenora Breeden, Katelyn Sass and Natalie Standley** received funding as Communication Scholars during the 2016-2017 academic year. In order to be eligible (and continue to receive funding), a student must be a full-time Communication Studies major and maintain a grade point average of at least 3.00 overall or 3.25 in the major.

## Research Presentations

At EIU's Student Research and Creative Discovery Conference, the following students presented research papers:

- ✓ **Ashley Jordan**, "The Effects on College Relationships: A Study on the Different Ways a Relationship Can Harm or Benefit." (Faculty Mentor: **Dr. Rodney Marshall**)

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- ✓ **Dylan Rardin**, "How Should Disagreements be Handled in the Workplace?" (Faculty Mentor: **Dr. Rodney Marshall**)
- ✓ **Abbie Watton**, "Make Believe or Real: 'Slacktivism and its Role Offline.'" (Faculty Mentor: **Dr. Rodney Marshall**)
- ✓ **Derek Wunder** and **Catie Witt**, "Run the World Media Campaign." (Faculty Mentor: **Dr. David Gracon**)

## Scholarship and Awards Ceremony

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

- ✓ **Natalie Standley**, Kenneth E. Hadwiger Ph.D. Undergraduate Scholarship
- ✓ **Emmanuel Ayiku**, Jack L. Payan Scholarship
- ✓ **Chloe Gottschalk**, Betty Lou Balasi Scholarship
- ✓ **Payton Blakney**, Dr. J. Glenn Ross Scholarship
- ✓ **Lacey Jenkins**, Carol Manhart Scholarship
- ✓ **Kayla Quick**, Kenneth E. Hadwiger Ph.D. Graduate Scholarship
- ✓ **Makenzie Hayden**, Jon J. Hopkins Memorial Speech Education Scholarship
- ✓ **Kaitlyn Ebert**, Ralph Y. McGinnis Scholarship

Undergraduate Award Winners:

- ✓ **Catie Witt**, Outstanding Senior
- ✓ **Derek Wunder**, Outstanding Junior
- ✓ **James Bateman**, Outstanding Lab Assistant
- ✓ **Dalano Martin**, Inspired Achievement

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Graduate Award Winners:

- ✓ **Kelli Halfman**, Outstanding Graduate Student
- ✓ **Olubusola Akinpelu**, Distinguished International Student
- ✓ **Brandon Goodman**, Research/Creative Activity Grant
- ✓ **Allison Grussing**, Research/Creative Activity Grant

## Creative Activities

The Alternative Television and Film Club (ALT-TV) produced two episodes of student work (Episodes 9 and 10). Current students, alumni, communication faculty and community members attended two public screenings at the Top of Roc in Charleston.

## Forensics

The Speech Team had an extraordinary year. The team successfully competed in Illinois and surrounding states including Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri. Led by Forensics Director, **Ms. Sara Gronstal**, the Speech Panthers competed in a total of ten tournaments, including two national competitions. Below is a list of the team's accomplishments:

### *Sweepstakes Awards*

- ✓ The team placed 7th in their division at the National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI, April 13th-17th, 2017.
- ✓ The team placed 7th in the Nation at the National Speech Championship, hosted by Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, March 26th, 2017.
- ✓ The team placed 2nd in Individual Sweepstakes at the Illini Stars Tournament Day 2 hosted by the University of Illinois - Springfield, Champaign, IL, February 4th, 2017.
- ✓ The team placed 5th in Individual Sweepstakes at the Illini Stars Tournament Day 1 hosted by the University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, February 4th, 2017.
- ✓ The team placed 6th in Team Sweepstakes at the Forensic Roots Tournament at McKendree University, Lebanon, IL, November 13th, 2016.
- ✓ The team placed 4th in Team Sweepstakes at The Dan Smith Invitational at Bradley University, Peoria, IL, October 2nd, 2016.

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- ✓ The team placed 5th in Team Sweepstakes at the 74 Swing Day One at Illinois State University, Normal, IL, October 1st, 2016.
- ✓ The team placed 2nd in Open Team Sweepstakes at The On This Day in History Tournament at Butler University, Indianapolis, IN, September 25th, 2016.

## *Individual Event Awards*

### National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament

- ✓ **Emma Walker** was the National Runner Up in Prose Interpretation.
- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** was a quarter-finalist in Persuasive Speaking.

### National Speech Championship

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** was a semi-finalist in Persuasive Speaking, Informative Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, and Extemporaneous Speaking.
- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** was a semi-finalist in Prose Interpretation and Poetry Interpretation and placed in Persuasive Speaking.
- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** was a quarter-finalist in After Dinner Speaking and Program Oral Interpretation.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** was a quarter-finalist in After Dinner Speaking, and placed in Prose Interpretation.

### Last Chance Tournament

- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** and **Emma Walker** placed.

### Illini Stars Tournament Day 1

- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** placed 2nd in Poetry and was the Tournament Champion in Persuasive Speaking.
- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** placed 6th in Program Oral Interpretation and After Dinner Speaking.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** was the Tournament Champion in Prose Interpretation.
- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** placed 4th in Extemporaneous Speaking.

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## Illini Stars Tournament Day 2

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** was the Tournament Champion in Extemporaneous Speaking and Informative Speaking and Impromptu Speaking.
- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** placed 3rd in Persuasive Speaking and Poetry Interpretation and placed 7th in Prose Interpretation.
- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** placed 3rd in Program Oral Interpretation and placed 4th in Dramatic Interpretation and placed 6th in After Dinner Speaking.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** placed 3rd in Prose Interpretation.

## Forensics Roots Tournament

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** was the Tournament Champion in Individual Sweepstakes and placed 3rd in Informative Speaking and Impromptu Speaking and placed 2nd in Persuasive Speaking.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** placed 2nd in Prose Interpretation.

## City of Cedars Swing

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** placed 2nd in Persuasive Speaking.

## Dan Smith Invitational

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** placed 2nd in Persuasive Speaking and placed 4th in Impromptu Speaking.
- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** placed 4th in Persuasive Speaking and placed 5th in Poetry Interpretation.

## 74 Swing Day One

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** placed 3rd in Persuasive Speaking.

## On This Day in History Tournament

- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** placed 3rd in Stand Up Comedy.
- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** and **Edwyn Mitchell** placed 6th in Improvisational Duo.
- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** placed 6th in Radio Speaking.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** placed 2nd in Table Topics and placed 2nd in Prose.
- ✓ **Sam Gilbert** placed 4th in Table Topics.
- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** was the Tournament Champion in Table Topics and in Radio Speaking and placed 4th in Impromptu Speaking.



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Audrey Cunningham Forensics 500

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** placed 4th in Persuasive Speaking.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** placed 2nd in Novice Prose and received the Top Novice award in Program Oral Interpretation and placed 2nd in Program Oral Interpretation.
- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** placed 7th in Program Oral Interpretation.

## *Qualifications for Nationals*

The following students qualified for the NFA National Tournament:

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** qualified in Impromptu Speaking and Persuasive Speaking, Informative Speaking and Extemporaneous Speaking.
- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** qualified in Persuasive Speaking, Poetry Interpretation and Prose Interpretation.
- ✓ **Emma Walker** qualified in Prose Interpretation and After Dinner Speaking.
- ✓ **Cheyenne Flores** qualified in Dramatic Interpretation and After Dinner Speaking.

## *Other Awards*

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich** received the Charles A. Austin Award from the Honors College to participate in the prestigious Sciences Po Summer School program in Paris, France and appeared on the Dean's List in Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2014 and Fall 2013.
- ✓ **Edwyn Mitchell** appeared on the Dean's List in Spring 2016.
- ✓ **Sam Gilbert** appeared on the Dean's List in Spring 2016 and Fall 2015.

## *Campus Performances*

- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich, Cheyenne Flores, Edwyn Mitchell and Emma Walker** performed at the 2017 Speech Team Spring Showcase.
- ✓ **Austin Mejdrich, Cheyenne Flores, Edwyn Mitchell and Emma Walker** performed at the 2016 Speech Team Winter Showcase.