

Department of Communication Studies
2013 Faculty Summer Activities and Accomplishments Report
(May 1 to August 1)

Melanie Mills and **Leigh Bryan**, along with **Mark Borzi**, led a successful study abroad trip to New Zealand and Australia. 15 students spent 33 days exploring 11 cities. The students had first-hand experience with the culture in both countries as well as learned about the strong environmental conservation efforts both governments are currently pursuing. Student reported the following cultural highlights while visiting New Zealand: attending a Mitai Maori Village cultural performance, exploring Waitomo glowworm caves, visiting the Te Puia national museum of New Zealand and hiking a glacier in Franz Josef. The highlights of Australia were seeing the Sydney Opera House, learning how to paint like an Aborigine from a local Aboriginal artist, exploring the world's oldest rainforest, spearfishing the Aboriginal way on Cooya Beach in Mossman and snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef. The students put together a training manual of sorts that will assist future students in their preparations for study abroad in New Zealand and Australia.

As many of you remember, **Shirley Bell** carried the Arts & Humanities flag at commencement in May. She was also invited to present a lecture at the second annual EIU Bullying Conference in October. The conference is part of the Bridging Voices in our Community program. This year's theme is "Safety, Security, and Support: Everyone has a Right." Shirley was selected, in large measure, because of her work in the Advanced Interpersonal Communication course (in 2012, the Integrative Learning component involved studying bullying at Mattoon Middle School) and because of her work organizing and presenting the NCA panel entitled, "Bullying: A Call for COMMunity Research on a Fundamentally COMMunicative Social Activity" at the 2012 conference.

Elizabeth Gill published an entry in *Encyclopedia of Health Communication* as well as presented a co-authored paper, "Formative Communication Experiences and Message Production in Adulthood: Family Communication Patterns and Creative Facility" at the International Communication Association conference in London. Beth recently learned that her co-authored article has been accepted for publication in *Communication Research Reports*. She also became a core faculty member with EIU's interdisciplinary Gerontology MA program.

In addition to his work as graduate coordinator for the department, **Matt Gill** wrote an article on "Public Relations and Social Media" for the *Encyclopedia of Health Communication* published by Sage.

David Gracon's documentary, "Walls of Sound — A Look Inside the House of Records" (documentary video, 63 min., 2012), has received critical praise and been accepted at a number of conferences and film festivals in the fall, including the Global Fusion 2013 Conference (Southern Illinois University) and the Embarras Valley Film Festival (Eastern Illinois University). A number of screenings of the documentary took place this summer, including the Pittsburgh Independent Film Festival and the Davis Film Festival (California). David also

attended the 2013 Robert Flaherty Documentary Film Seminar (Colgate University, Hamilton NY).

David has been working on a short observational/experimental documentary video series titled “Ordinary Video Series,” (short videos shot via Smartphone observing the poetic intersection of nature, media and constructed spaces). One of the videos, “Strip Mall Nature” has been accepted into a screening series associated with Squeaky Wheel, Buffalo Media Resources which will take place in fall/winter of 2013.

He also participated in a charity bicycle ride to benefit the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY.

Marita Gronnvoll’s co-authored article, “Bodies that Shatter: A Rhetoric of Exteriors, the Abject, and Female Suicide Bombers in the ‘War on Terrorism’,” has been accepted for publication in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*. Marita is listed as first author. The article is scheduled for publication in the fall. Marita also received an invitation to participate in an National Communication Association (NCA) preconference seminar entitled “War Rhetoric.” For this seminar, she will be drawing upon her work on the female suicide bomber piece as well as earlier work on the use of torture in the “war on terrorism.”

Rich G. Jones received word that two individual papers were accepted for presentation at the NCA. In addition, Rich and Rodney Marshall had a panel proposal accepted for presentation at the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association conference (ICTA). Rich was also elected to the Board of Directors and appointed chair of the Higher Education Committee for ICTA. During the summer, he reviewed manuscripts for two journals, *The Basic Course Communication Annual* and *The Journal of Homosexuality*.

In addition to pursuing his research agenda, Rich worked on a project with the EIU General Education Learning Goals committee that was funded by a grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education as well as participated in two media interviews related to social media and interpersonal relationships (*Goldsboro News-Argus* and *Good Housekeeping* magazine). Rich is also an engaged member of the Charleston community. He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for Charleston Community Theatre, and was selected to direct the first play of the season for Charleston Community Theatre.

Stephen A. King’s paper, “The Civil Rights Movement and the Music of Resistance: An Analysis of Freedom Songs and Black Power Music,” was accepted for the 2013 NCA conference. King was also invited to join the editorial board of a new journal *Rock Music Studies* (the journal’s first issue will be published in 2014). Published by Taylor and Francis, *Rock Music Studies* will be a spinoff of *Popular Music and Society*.

Rodney Marshall and Cathy Marie Quast Sowa published an article on student text messaging and uses and gratification:

Sowa, C. M. Q., and Marshall, R. K. (2013). Did u get my text message?: Graduate students' text messaging uses and gratifications. *International Journal of Interactive Communication Systems and Technologies*, 2(2), 33-48.

Rodney also developed an Information Competency Assessment instrument. The instrument (as well as a paper describing how the instrument was developed) was published on the following website: <http://jfmuellet.faculty.noctrl.edu/infolitassessments.htm>

On June 1, **Ryan McDaniel** was ordained a priest in the Russian Orthodox Church. He serves as Faculty Advisor and Chaplain to the EIU RSO, the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. He also serves in the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Air Force, assigned to active service with the Indiana Air National Guard. He received official ecclesiastical endorsement with the Department of Defense to serve as a Chaplain this summer.

Melanie Mills won the Distinguished Faculty Award in May 2013. She also co-authored an article with Bob Krizek, "Doing Ultra Postive Ethnographic Research (superDUPER)," at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry conference in Champaign. At the conference, she also presented, "'It's a Way of Life': Honoring the Lives, Scholarship, and Wit of Bud Goodall and Nick Trujillo (with the FemNogs)." She also had three papers accepted for the NCA conference in November. Another essay was accepted for presentation at the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language & Gender conference in October.

In addition, Melanie served as a reviewer for the journal *Health Communication* and reviewed a book chapter (Co-Cultural Theory) for the upcoming edition of Em Griffin's *A First Look at Communication Theory* textbook. During summer, Melanie performed a number of important service-related functions for the university (i.e., Institutional Review Board) as well as the community (i.e., *Meals on Wheels* volunteer).

Molly Niesen's essays, "From Gray Panther to National Nanny: The Rise and Fall of the FTC" and "A Gramscian Historical Analysis: The 1970s as a Moment of Hegemony," were accepted for the 2013 NCA conference. A third essay, "Mike Pertschuk and the KidVid Crusade" was accepted for presentation at the Union for the Democratic Communication convention.

Andrew Robinson attended the Greenleaf Center's Annual Servant Leadership Conference in Indianapolis this summer. Andrew has also been working with eleven students and three recent graduates toward achieving ordination. The program entitled, "Cultivating Ministers Training Program," has been in operation for nearly a year and will continue for another two years. The program includes a weekly two hour workshop as well as speaking and leadership assignments that help the students improve their communication skills. Like other members of the faculty, Andrew is very service-oriented. He teaches Bible study each Wednesday evening and ministers each Sunday morning for ACTS Campus Ministry and RSO.

Eric Schumacher co-authored a textbook chapter on masculine and feminine constructs in cross cultural research:

Chesebro, J.W., McMahan, D.T., Russett, P., Schumacher, E.J., & Wu, J. (2013). The masculine-feminine construct in cross cultural research: The emergence of a transcendent global culture. In Asante, M.K., Miike, Y., & Yin, J. (Eds.), *The Global Intercultural Communication Reader*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Routledge.

Brian Sowa attended the Faculty Summer Institute (Teaching and Technology) at the University of Illinois in mid-May. He also completed a proposal for an introductory book on public relations which was accepted by Cognella for publication. In addition, Brian taught his first class completely online: Current Issues in Public Relations (CMN 4030-Special Topics).