



DEPARTMENT *of* COMMUNICATION
and PERFORMANCE

College of Arts & Sciences

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Spotlight on Scholarship:
AY 2018-2019 Report**

Prepared by

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Presented to

Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair

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The Communication & Performance Faculty



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Friends & colleagues—

In this report, you will find a selection of our AY 2018-2019 scholarly and creative activities in the Department of Communication & Performance. Particularly, we highlight the exciting and unique translational work being done in our department, celebrating how we continue to partner with and across communities.

On & off campus

When it comes to bridging communities, our Storytelling faculty continue making invaluable contributions. For example, the Storytelling Concerts brought to the region internationally recognized performers Jules Corriere and Antonio Rocha. Then there are the Story Slams; Delanna Reed oversees six each year, three in the fall, three in the spring, providing a platform for seasoned and emerging storytellers at the university and in Northeast Tennessee.

Once again, under the direction of Laughton and Erin Messmer, the Speech and Debate Team brought home numerous awards from tournaments. You'll read more about their accomplishments later in this report. Then, in April 2019, they partnered with Dr. Carl Brown, an ETSU graduate and Communication Studies Hall of Fame recipient, to review opportunities and strategies for creating our own Speech Lab. Look for announcements in the future. Of course, all of Erin's work for the Speech and Debate Team is on top of her current dissertation research in the College of Education.

Taking a unique approach to translational work, Christine Anzur distilled the findings from her article published in the prestigious *Journal of Family Communication*. She authored a research brief and posted it to the same online discussion forum where she recruited participants for her dissertation study. That's an innovative way of reaching the communities we serve.

Awards & honors

Nancy Donoval, Storytelling Program Coordinator, received the National Storytelling Network's ORACLES Circle of Excellence Award. Read more about that below. Then, there were several nominations. Christine Anzur was nominated for the Sandra Petronio Family Communication Dissertation Excellence Award, National Communication Association. Also, Kelly Dorgan's essay, "Under the Rhododendrons" was nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

Excitingly, there's already news about other faculty members having received awards (Hint: Ellen Young and Delanna Reed). Look for upcoming announcements and reports.

Partnering & collaborating

A number of us have been busy partnering with communities outside of academia. Wesley Buerkle continued his scholarly work on sexual consent by presenting at the 2018 Escape from Rape. Subsequently, he received several invitations to present on the topic, including with OASIS at a men's residence hall, and to the ETSU Bridge Program over the summer. Well done, Wesley!

Laughton Messmer partnered with old friends when he performed in the Department of Theatre and Dance's production of *Middletown*. Kelly Dorgan returned to Warf-Pickel to work with the Department of Media and Communication, teaming up with Candy Bryant to produce two of Kelly's essays for podcasts. Jamie Sproles continues to partner with our alumni to return them to the classroom; you'll read more about her amazing contributions below.

Not surprisingly, Andrew Herrmann was quite productive during his spring 2019 Non-Instructional Assignment. He continued his long-term collaboration with Dr. Art Herbig, co-editing their new book series, *Communication Perspectives on Popular Culture*. He's also been hard at work on *The Journal of Autoethnography*, a new publication from the University of California Press. A co-editor, Andrew expects the journal's launch by early 2020. We'll keep following his groundbreaking scholarship. Until then, if you want to know more, read here: <https://www.ucpress.edu/blog/39532/new-journal-coming-in-2020-journal-of-autoethnography>

Advising & mentoring

A special thanks goes to the mentors and advisors in our department. Let's highlight Amber Kinser's contributions, for example. Amber mentored **9** student-researchers, advising them through the Institutional Review Board approval process, a time-consuming endeavor. Serving as a liaison between the IRB and the department has enabled her to effectively guide our emerging researchers. Amber's hands-on approach helps explain how engaged her advisees are, including Tama Lunceford who presented at the *Tennessee Communication Association* (Fall 2018).

Several of our faculty mentored students for the 2019 Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium. Excitingly, we had **11** undergraduates participate at Boland, including the advisees of Wesley Buerkle and Andrew Herrmann who presented original research. Plus, Laughton Messmer mentored a member of the Speech and Debate Team, offering Boland attendees insight into the importance of parliamentary debate. Additionally, we had **10** majors/minors and one graduate student participate in the Inaugural Young Appalachian Story Summit held in December 2018 at the International Storytelling Center. For the Summit, Kelly Dorgan served in an advisory capacity, working with our own graduate, Ms. Rachel Stiltner, ISC Communications Director. Kelly again teamed with Rachel, as well as graduate Kathryn Duvall of ETSU Pediatrics, to host an Engaged Storytelling Seminar (April 2019); this seminar helped nearly **30** students gain additional training in how stories connect communities and foster research.

In closing, thank you for all your scholarly and creative activities. We have even more projects, achievements, and performances on the horizon.

Gratefully,

Kelly A. Dorgan, PhD
Research Coordinator
Department of Communication & Performance

Thank You,
Lori Ann Manis!

For all the ways you support this initiative.

Faculty Activities
~Selected~

Christine Anzur

Publication:

Anzur, C. K. & Myers, S. A. (2019). "To Meet Her, That Changed Everything": Adult Adoptees' Discursive Construction of the Meaning of "Parent" Following Birth Parent Contact. *Journal of Family Communication*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15267431.2019.1656633>

Presentations:

Anzur, C. K. (2019, April). *Relational Maintenance Behaviors in Nontraditional Parent-Child Relationships*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.

Anzur, C. K. (2019, April). "Don't Trash Talk My [Birth] Parents": *Negative Parental Disclosure in Adoptive Families*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.

Erin Blankenship-Messmer

Dissertation:

Messmer-Blankenship, E. (In Progress). *First-Generation Women's Perceptions of Support While Enrolled in College: A Phenomenological Study* [Dissertation].

Thank you, **Laughton Messmer and Erin Blankenship-Messmer**, Co-Directors of the ETSU Speech and Debate Team.

The Team successfully placed at multiple tournaments this year. They brought home a dozen awards and wins, including:

- First Place Speaker, Northeast State Community College Spring Fling
- First Place Four-Year College Team Sweepstakes, Bryan College Lion's Pride Debate Tournament
- State Champion in International Public Debate Association Debate, Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensic Association.

The Team also participated in the AY 18-19 ETSU Civility Week event, "A Moderated Debate on a Hot Topic: Immigration."

It's no wonder, then, that Erin and Laughton were featured in the *Johnson City Press* **twice**.

<https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/Education/2019/03/17/Five-Questions-ETSU-Debate-Team-member-discusses-importance-of-civil-debate-in-polarized-society>

<https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/Education/2019/03/08/ETSU-Speech-and-Debate-Team-brings-home-top-awards>

Check out too the ETSU University News site where the Team's work is showcased.

https://www.etsu.edu/news/2019/03-mar/nr_speech_debate_wins_s19.aspx

Congratulations on your many accomplishments.

Wesley Buerkle

Publications:

Buerkle, C. W. (2019). "I Didn't See It, but I Know What It's About": The Motion Picture Trailer and Problematic Synecdoche." *The Journal of Popular Culture*.

Buerkle, C. W. (2019). Adam Mansplains Everything: White-Hipster Masculinity as Covert Hegemony. *Southern Communication Journal*, 170-82.

Buerkle, C. W. (2018). Selling Guilt: Using Kenneth Burke to Teach Critical Readings of Advertising. *Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.) in Communication*, edited by John S. Seiter, Jennifer Peeples, and Matthew L. Sanders, Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Presentations:

Buerkle, C.W. (2019, June). Consent. Presented to ETSU Bridge Program students. Johnson City, TN.

Buerkle, C.W. (2018, October). Ask the Sexpert: Real Men Understand Consent. Presented at an ETSU Men's Dormitory with OASIS. Johnson City, TN.

Buerkle, C. W. (2018, September). The Problem of Men Listening for Consent. Presented at the third annual meeting of Escape from Rape: A Cultural Change. Kingsport, TN.

Wesley Buerkle continues contributing to our campus and our region. In fall 2018, he participated in the Escape from Rape Conference, a joint initiative between ETSU and the local community. Then, he spoke by invitation at a men's dormitory at ETSU in conjunction with OASIS.

Repeatedly, Wesley takes his scholarly interests into communities. For example, just this summer, he partnered with the ETSU Bridge Program to speak about Sexual Consent to incoming freshmen.

If you haven't gotten a chance, take a look at the YouTube video that he researched and curated as part of a 2016 collaboration with the ETSU Counseling Center.

The video, "Images of Sexually Aggressive Men that Support Rape Culture," has received more than **9.7 million views** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OP35WHm47-U>.

Kelly A. Dorgan

Publications:

Dorgan, K. A. (Fall, 2018). Black Ribbons. *Appalachian Heritage*.
<http://appalachianheritage.net/2019/03/22/black-ribbons/>

Dorgan, K. A. (2018, December 20). Miscarriages of Social Justice. *The Nasiona*.
<https://thenasiona.com/2018/12/20/miscarriages-of-social-justice/>

Dorgan, K. A. (2019, August 6). Community Garden: A Micro-Essay. *Dreamers Creatively Writing* (Canadian Magazine). <https://www.dreamerswriting.com/community-garden/>

Pushcart Prize Nominated Essay:

Dorgan, K. A. (2018, October 19). Under the Rhododendrons (A #MeToo essay). *NYMBM*
<http://www.notyourmothersbreastmilk.com/home>

Podcasts:

Dorgan, K. A., and Bryant, C. (2019, June 3). Miscarriages of Social Justice [Podcast Episode 7, produced in conjunction with the ETSU Department of Media and Communication and *Nasiona* podcast producers]. *The Nasiona*.
<https://thenasiona.com/2018/12/20/miscarriages-of-social-justice/>

Dorgan, K. A. (Forthcoming). Taking Care. *borrowed solace*. [Podcast Episode 4, produced in conjunction with the ETSU Department of Media and Communication and *borrowed solace* producers]

Let's talk about how we're entering digital worlds to reach across populations.

Christine Anzur authored a research brief based on her interviews with adult adoptees. Specifically, she narrowed her findings published in the *Journal of Family Communication*. Then, she made those findings accessible to the adoption forum of Reddit, the same forum where she recruited participants for her dissertation research.

Christine says that posting her research brief allows her to **“reach a larger audience of adoptees/adoptive parents/birth parents who otherwise would not have access to the piece.”**

Meanwhile, **Kelly Dorgan** teamed up with Candy Bryant to produce a segment for *The Nasiona Podcast*.

In spring 2019, Kelly was invited by the Executive Director and Editor-In-Chief of *The Nasiona* to be featured on a podcast episode about mothering.

Kelly partnered with Candy, the Multimedia Specialist for the ETSU Department of Media and Communication. A trained vocal professional, Candy worked with engineers and producers to bring to life Kelly's 2018 essay, “Miscarriages of Social Justice.”

The podcast episode debuted on June 2, 2019, increasing the reach of Kelly's work on the intersection of gender, culture, and ill/wellness.

<https://thenasiona.com/2019/06/02/episode-7-motherhood/>

As we grow, so too will our online presence, enabling us to bridge scholarly and public communities.

Andrew Herrmann

Publications [Co-Editor]:

Herrmann, A. F., & Herbig, A. (2019). [Eds.] Communicating with Memes: Consequences in Post-Truth Civilization. *Communication Perspectives on Popular Culture*, 6.

Herrmann, A. F., & Herbig, A. (2018). [Eds.] Myth, Fan Culture, and the Popular Appeal of Liminality in the Music of U2: A Love Story. *Communication Perspectives on Popular Culture*, 5.

Presentations:

Herrmann, A. F. (2019). Trapped: The Corporate Colonization of Topher Brink. Paper presented at the 89th Southern States Communication Association, Montgomery, AL.

Herrmann, A. F. (2019, April). Evangelicals, #ChurchToo, and Trump: Evangelicalism at the Crossroads. Paper presented at the 89th Southern States Communication Association, Montgomery, AL.

Herrmann, A. F. & Herbig, A. (2019, April). Beyond Transmedia: The Theoretical Groundwork for a Polymediated Narrative Approach. Paper presented at the 89th Southern States Communication Association, Montgomery, AL.

Herbig, A., & **Herrmann, A. F.** (2018, November). Polymediated Narrative: A New Approach to Modern Media, Discourses, and Stories. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

Delanna Reed

Presentation:

Reed, D. (2018, October). Feminist Analysis of *Beauty and the Beast* in *The Shape of Water*, American Folklore Society, Buffalo, NY.

Performances:

Reed, D. (2019, August 25). Appalachian Tales and Ghost Stories for Vance Birthplace Historic Site, Weaverville, NC.

Reed, D. (2019, August 3). Ghost Story for Graveyard Tales Annual Jonesborough Storytellers Guild Concert at Rocky Mount, TN.

Reed, D. (2019, June 9). Original History Story of Stonewall Riots: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Gay Rights Movement, First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethton, TN.

Reed, D. (2019, March). Original Tall Tale at Texas Storytelling Festival Liar's Contest, Denton, TX.

Reed, D. (2018, September). History Story of Jean O'Leary and Midge Constanza, TriPride LGBTQ (Gay) Rights Movement Concert, Johnson City, TN.

Storytelling had a productive and exciting year.

Nancy Donoval, Storytelling Program Coordinator, recently joined our department, bringing with her a prestigious award.

Over the summer (2019), Nancy received the National Storytelling Network's ORACLES Circle of Excellence Award.

This national award is presented to **“artists who are recognized by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence.”**

Recipients like Nancy must have demonstrated over time a **“dedication to the art of storytelling.”**

Read about this significant award at <https://storynet.org/2019-oracle-awards-recipient/>

Congratulations on this spectacular achievement, Nancy!

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True to form, **Delanna Reed** contributed to numerous community projects.

For example, she again served on the board for the 2019 TriPride Festival, helping plan, coordinate, and implement the weeklong celebration. This time the festival took place in Kingsport.

Then, in addition to her work for the Storytelling Institute and Story Slams, she also held storytelling workshops for migrant children at Head Start (August through November, 2018).

Bravo, Storytelling faculty! Your contributions continue to inspire us and elevate our communities and discipline.

Undergraduate & Graduate Student Activities ~Selected~

Undergraduate Scholarship

Boland:

Armstrong, Heidi (2019, March 29). Guilt and Redemption: A Burkean Analysis of Body Positive Rhetoric.

Advisor: Wesley Buerkle

Brandon, Gracyn (2019, March 29). From Communication Major to Communication Practitioner: Lessons from an In-Field Experience.

Advisor: Kelly A. Dorgan

Faust, Max and Armstrong, Heidi (2019, March 29). Perpetuating Shame. Period.

Advisor: Wesley Buerkle

Hartung, Julie (2019, March 29). Speech is Power: The Importance of Parliamentary Debate.

Advisor: Laughton Messmer

Millsaps, Caroline and King, Caylee (2019), March 29). A Literature Review: How Understanding the Definition, Symptoms, and Risk Factors of Miscarriage Can Normalize This Phenomenon.

Advisor: Kelly A. Dorgan

Nunez, Clarissa and Barron, Jessica (2019, March 29). Objectification of Women in the Hip Hop Industry.

Advisor: Wesley Buerkle

Honors Theses:

Hughes, Hal. (2019). Names and the Process of Identity: An Autoethnographic Approach to Becoming Someone Else.

Advisor: Andrew Herrmann

Hughes, Zachary (2019). Exploring Perceptions of Leadership Created Through Communication: A Qualitative Study about Generation Z College Students.

Advisor: Kelly A. Dorgan

Reynolds, Mykala (2019). "Miracle of Life My Ass": A Study of Gender and Pregnancy Discourse in Wynonna Earp.

Advisor: Andrew Herrmann

Smith, Lauren. (2019). Trauma, Identity and Equestrianism.

Advisor: Andrew Herrmann

Program available at: https://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/documents/bolandprogram.pdf

Welcome Jamie Sproles to the Spotlight!

As the Alumni Coordinator for the Department of Communication and Performance, Jamie researches our alums.

Collecting data on our students' experiences (both pre/post-graduation), she tracks their professional involvements, including their job titles, responsibilities, and employers. Additionally, she manages our alumni-related accounts on Facebooks and for Twitter, sharing news, events, and photographs.

Don't forget her work on the Future Alumni Survey!

Working to support our departmental mission, goals, and values, she gathers and analyzes data about our graduates, featuring findings on our website and in promotional material.

Of course, we're familiar with the amazing work Jamie does for **ETSU Alumni Return to the Classroom**.

Each semester, she stays busy, recruiting graduates, organizing their visits to campus, and coordinating their presentations to current ETSU students in upper-division and General Education classes.

Her efforts highlight the awesome achievements of our majors after their graduation. Furthermore, by attending alumni presentations, our current students are better able to consider professional opportunities, as well as to network—right in the classroom!

Thank you, Jamie! We notice and appreciate **all** the ways you support our current and former students, along with our department's mission and goals.

Graduate Theses & Capstones:

Claxton, Alana (2019, March). *Cooking Lessons: Oral Recipe Sharing in the Southern Kitchen*. [Thesis]
Advisor: Amber Kinser

Daggett, Matthew (2019, March). *The Ill Man: An Exploration of Chronic Illness Disclosure within Masculine Culture*. [Thesis]
Advisor: Kelly Dorgan

Gay, Kallie (2019, April). *Becoming a Master Manager: An Analysis of SNAP Recipient Stories of Navigating Government Assistance*. [Thesis]
Advisor: Amber Kinser

Israel, Kristi (2019, April). *Constructing a Celtic Identity in the Contemporary United States*. [Capstone]
Advisor: Delanna Reed

As if serving as Department Chair isn't enough, **Amber Kinser** also tackles the important work of Graduate Coordinator for our Communication and Storytelling Studies master's program.

Under her direction, the graduate program flourishes, in part because of her initiatives. In her Methods class, she teaches novice researchers how to effectively work with the ETSU Institutional Review Board, as well as how to design and implement multi-phasic research projects.

Add this to her other initiatives!

In October 2018, Amber organized and hosted the **inaugural graduate student writing retreat**. This retreat provided seven graduate students with the opportunity to spend a quiet weekend devoted to their research, including analyzing and writing results.

Then, her **Performance Hour** (December 7, 2018) brought together faculty and graduate students for an evening of storytelling and scholarly readings.

Thank you, Amber, for providing these opportunities for our graduate-student scholars and performers.

ETSU Funding Opportunities



ETSU Internal Funding

Overview

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php



ETSU Elevates (team-based service grant)

General Information

<https://www.etsu.edu/etsuelevates/>



ETSU Research Development Committee

Small Research Grants

<https://www.etsu.edu/research/rdc/smallgrant/default.php>

Major Research Grants

<https://www.etsu.edu/research/rdc/major/default.php>

Interdisciplinary Research Grants

<https://www.etsu.edu/research/rdc/interdisciplinary/default.php>



ETSU Instructional Development Committee

General Information

<http://www.etsu.edu/academicaffairs/instructional-grants.php>



ETSU Internationalization Faculty Grant Program

General Information

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#Internationalization



ETSU PGIA

General Information

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#PGIA



ETSU Travel Award for Arts & Sciences Faculty

General Information

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#TAASF



ETSU Student Opportunities

ETSU Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Grant

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#Collaborative

ETSU Undergraduate Travel Grants (Undergraduate)

http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/travel.php

ETSU Appalachian Student Research Forum (Graduate & Undergraduate)

<http://www.etsu.edu/studentresearch/>