Spotlight on Scholarship:
AY 2016-2017 Report

Prepared by

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Presented to

Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair

&

The Communication & Performance Faculty
Friends & colleagues—

Below, you’ll find some of our numerous AY 2016-2017 scholarly and creative accomplishments in the Department of Communication & Performance.

**On & Off Campus**

Throughout this report, you’ll quickly notice all the work being done with (and within) communities.

In our department community, Adriane Flanary engaged in applied research to help students reach their graduation goals. That’s why she earned the 2017 Chair’s Award for Exceptional Service. Read more about her efforts below.

Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship mentored our ETSU debaters to several local and regional victories; additionally, they hosted visiting teams on campus. And Delanna Reed shared her one-woman show *Round Peg in a Square Hole: Lesbian Teachers' Stories of Fitting In* with both the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting and the New Voice Teller for Stone Soup Storytelling Festival.

**Awards & honors**

As usual, several of our faculty brought home well-deserved recognitions for their scholarly work.

Melissa Nipper won the AY16-17 ETSU Outstanding Thesis in Art and Humanities. Andrew Herrmann received Top Paper conference awards from both the Southern States Communication Association and the National Communication Association.

**Partnering & collaborating**

When it comes to research, our faculty-scholars maintained a collaborative spirit.

Amber Kinser teamed with members of the Quillen College of Medicine on critical dementia patient-caregiver research. Also, Amber and I (Kelly Dorgan) joined with the National Communication Association to bring the NCA Partnership Program to ETSU; this initiative
fostered a conversation at the regional and national levels about wellness, illness, and health in Southern Central Appalachia.

Wesley Buerkle continued his multi-site collaboration on his grant-funded oral citation study. As you’ll read below, he and his co-author Dr. Gerhart are successfully publishing in a variety of scholarly journals.

**Advising & mentoring**

Once again, you clearly demonstrated your commitment to mentoring our student-scholars and performers.

Consider that for the 2017 *Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium*, we had 13 presenters and performers. On top of that, we were represented aptly by Juliette Guerrault at the *Regional Graduate Liberal Arts Conference* and the *Tennessee Communication Association* (Fall 2017).

In the end, AY16-17 reflected our continued dedication to scholarly and creative activities.

Gratefully,

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

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Thank You, **Lori Ann Manis**.

She proofed and edited critical materials, ensuring that your work is well represented.
Faculty Scholarly Activities
(Selected)

Grant activities

**Wesley Buerkle**

**Melissa Nipper**

**Delanna Reed**

While the above-listed grants were awarded in the previous academic year, Wesley, Melissa, and Delanna illustrated the positive impact that funding has on scholarly productivity.

All three faculty members spent AY16-17 taking their grant-funded work into various communities.

For example, Wesley and Melissa both presented research findings at the 2017 Southern States Communication Association, and Melissa was invited to participate in the 2017 ETSU conference *Escape from Rape*.

In spring, Delanna directed a graduate student production of *Ridin’ the Rails: Tweetsie & Clinchfield Railroad Stories* at ETSU.
ETSU Funding Opportunities

ETSU Internal Funding

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

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

Application
https://www.etsu.edu/senate/facultyhandbook/documents/applicationinstructionaldevgrant.pdf

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

Application Procedures
http://www.etsu.edu/senate/facultyhandbook/section3.aspx#

ETSU Travel Award for Arts & Sciences Faculty

General Information
https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#TAASF
Let’s talk about how applied research helps transform our department.

Terrine Brown, collaborating with Andrew Herrmann, conducted research to identify trends in Storytelling programs.

Additionally, Terrine researched 157 Communication Studies alumni through social media platforms. She is striving to help us understand what Communication Studies alumni are doing post-graduation.

ETSU Student Opportunities

ETSU Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Grant
https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#Collaborative

ETSU Sherrod Library Graduate Student Excellence in Research
http://libraries.etsu.edu/about/jobs/scholarships/gradresearch

ETSU Research Grant Awards (Graduate)
http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/researchgrants.php

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/

ETSU Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium (Oral Presentations & Performances)
http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/publicize/symposium_form.php
Wesley Buerkle

Publications:


Presentations:


Kelly A. Dorgan

Publications:


Let’s talk more about how applied research helps transform our department.

**Adriane Flanary** keeps our students on-track for graduation by conducting exhaustive research into their coursework progress. Systematically, she analyzes advising notes and documents requirements.

Throughout AY16-17, she communicated with advisors, faculty, and staff about her research findings, providing crucial information and supporting the majors and minors we serve.

Undoubtedly, Adriane’s research helps students reach their goals.

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**Andrew Herrmann**

**Publications:**


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**Kelly A. Dorgan & Amber Kinser**

**Presentations:**

A special note of recognition goes to Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship, Co-Directors of the ETSU Speech and Debate Team.

In AY16-17, the team took home 10 awards, including multiple 1st and 2nd place wins.

Additionally, The Great Weed Debate proved once again to be popular. The Spring 2017 event reached students, faculty, and staff in the ETSU community and generated media attention.

Informed by research, the campus debate underscored the importance of translating scientific and social scientific data to broader communities.


Presentations:


Melissa Nipper

Presentations:


Nipper, M. (2016, November 3). Divergent discourse: A case study analyzing the effects of campus communication about sexual assault. ETSU Partners in Excellence Dinner. Johnson City TN.

Amber E. Kinser

Publications:


Delanna Reed

Performances:

Reed, D. (2017, April 29). [Featured storyteller]; Cumberland Mountain Storytelling Festival; Crossville, TN, Historic Rugby, TN.


Reed, D. (2017, April 7). Ridin’ the rails: Tweetsie & Clinchfield Railroad stories [Director]; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.
