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DEPARTMENT *of* COMMUNICATION  
*and* PERFORMANCE

College of Arts & Sciences

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Spotlight on Scholarship:  
AY 2017-2018 Report**

**Prepared by**

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**Presented to**

Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair

&

The Communication & Performance Faculty



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# DEPARTMENT of COMMUNICATION and PERFORMANCE

## College of Arts & Sciences

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

October 25, 2018

Friends & colleagues—

Below, please find a selection of our AY 2017-2018 scholarly and creative accomplishments in the Department of Communication & Performance.

### **On & off campus**

As we wrap up one academic year and begin another, you continue to demonstrate your commitment to communities. Take for instance, Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship-Messmer who coached the ETSU Speech & Debate Team, taking debaters to several local and regional tournaments. Additionally, they hosted the 2017 Buccaneer Invitational and 2018 Parli Plunder on campus.

In October 2017, Delanna Reed began her nearly yearlong work on the TriPride Board. The members of the Board were a small but committed group of local leaders, advocates, and activists who planned and implemented the 2018 TriPride festival, a weeklong and multifaceted celebration.

On April 13, 2018, the department hosted the inaugural Performance Hour. Faculty and graduate students shared some of their narratives, research, and stories. In fact, the event proved to be so successful that you should expect future showcases of faculty and graduate work.

### **Awards & honors**

As usual, several of our faculty brought home well-deserved recognitions for their scholarly and creative projects. Laughton Messmer received the 2018 Summit Award for Outstanding Advising (for a special interest organization). Delanna Reed earned the 2018 Chair's Award for Exceptional Service.

Applause to both Andrew Herrmann and Melissa Nipper. They were among the recipients who received the 2018 SGA Student Choice Awards: Best Storyteller.

### **Partnering & collaborating**

When it comes to research, our faculty-scholars maintained a collaborative spirit in AY 2017-2018. For example, Amber Kinser continued her work with members of the Quillen College of Medicine on dementia patient-caregiver research.

Melissa Nipper proved once again to be committed to working with her colleagues within and across disciplines. Consider, for instance, her participation in the 2017 Escape from Rape conference held at the Millennium Center, Johnson City, TN. One of the featured speakers, Melissa joined with a transdisciplinary group of researchers and practitioners to raise awareness and promote dialogue about sexual assault.

Moreover, Melissa Nipper brought her experience with personal-narrative scholarship to the graduate course, "Issues in Communication and Culture." Conducting a three-hour interactive guest lecture, she presented her previous work and mentored emerging scholars on writing and delivering narrative-based research.

### **Advising & mentoring**

Speaking of mentoring, you did it again in your work with students.

In the 2018 *Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium*, we had **8** presenters and performers. Also, we had **8** graduate and undergraduate-honors thesis/capstone projects (see below). On top of that, Tama Lunceford presented her narrative-based work at the *Tennessee Communication Association* (Fall 2018).

In closing, thank you for all your scholarly and creative accomplishments. As the department's Research Coordinator, I look forward to learning about your new projects, achievements, and performances in the coming year.

Gratefully,

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

Thank You,  
**Lori Ann Manis!**

Over the years, she has helped ensure the quality of these reports by proofreading and editing them.

Thanks to Drs. Amber Kinser and Andrew Herrmann's collaborative efforts, the Department of Communication and Performance welcomed to ETSU:

**Dr. Carolyn Ellis and Dr. Arthur Bochner,**  
Distinguished University Professors at the  
University of South Florida.

Co-authors of *Evocative Autoethnography: Writing Lives and Telling Stories*, Drs. Ellis and Bochner shared their experiences and wisdom with ETSU scholars, as well as emerging researchers, practitioners, and performers in our field.

From October 24-25, 2017, the lecture series featured work by these nationally and internationally award-winning scholars. Addressing around 200 audience members across 3 talks, Dr. Ellis and Dr. Bochner discussed compassionate interviewing, writing autoethnography, and wounded storytellers.

Special thanks to the ETSU co-sponsors!

- College of Arts & Sciences
- Office of Research & Sponsored Programs
- School of Continuing Studies & Academic Outreach
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology

### **Faculty Activities ~Selected~**

#### **Christine Anzur**

#### **Publications:**

Myers, S. A., & **Anzur, C. K.** (Under Review). Affectionate communication and the emerging adult-parent relationship. *Southern Communication Journal*.

Myers, S. A., Kennedy-Lightsey, C. D., **Anzur, C. K.**, Baker, J. P., Donato, M. E., & Pitts, S. (2018). Verbal aggressiveness as bullying in the emerging adult sibling relationship. In R. West & C. S. Beck (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Communication and Bullying*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Cranmer, G. A., **Anzur, C. K.**, & Sollitto, M. (2017). Memorable messages of social support that former high school athletes received from their head coaches. *Communication & Sport*, 5, 604-621.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2167479516641934>

### **Erin Blankenship-Messmer**

#### **Publications:**

Adinolfi, L. (2017). *Experiencing 100: A celebration of senses to honor Kingsport's centennial year*. D. Armstrong, **E. Blankenship**, C. Woodmansee (Eds.). Kingsport, TN: Junior League of Kingsport.

#### **Presentations:**

Blankenship, E. (2017, September 9). Making international students' learning and living experiences more effective. Presented at Tennessee Communication Association Conference, Gallatin, TN.

### **Wesley Buerkle**

#### **Publications:**

Buerkle, C. W. (Forthcoming). "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. (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. (2018, April). Adam mansplains everything: The power-knowledge of a white hipster masculinity. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern States Communication Association. Nashville, TN.

We are excited to welcome our newest member of the Department of Communication & Performance, **Dr. Christine Anzur**. While earning her Ph.D. in Communication Studies (West Virginia University), she examined the competing discourses of adult adoptees regarding the meaning of the term “parent.”

For her dissertation research, Christine interviewed 30 adult adoptees, finding two primary discourses. The first centered on participants’ perceptions that “parent” referred exclusively to their adoptive parents, even when they made contact with their birth parent. The second discourse emerged when participants’ definition of “parent” broadened to include their birth parent after making contact with their birth parent.

Currently, she is in the process of preparing her research for submission.

### **Kelly A. Dorgan**

#### **Publications:**

Dorgan, K. A. (2017). Taking care. *borrowed solace*. <https://borrowedsolace.com/>

Dorgan, K.A. (2018, April 2). Under the rhododendrons. *Memoir Magazine*. “Notable Essay” for the 2018 Memoir Magazine #MeToo Essay Contest.

### **Andrew Herrmann**

#### **Publications:**

Herrmann, A. F. (2018). Communication and ritual at the comic book shop: The convergence of organizational and popular cultures. *Journal of Organizational Ethnography*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JOE-06-2017-0027>

**Herrmann A. F.** & Herbig, A. (2018). Returning to *Kolchak*: Polymediated narrative, discourse, and supernatural drama. *International Journal of Communication*, 12, 222-240.

Herrmann, A. F. (2018). Working more, communicating less: Reframing the EVLN via relational dialectics. In L. Turner, N. P. Short, A. Grant & T. E. Adams, (Eds.), *International perspectives on autoethnographic research and practice* (pp. 84-95). New York, NY: Routledge.

**Herrmann, A. F.** & Herbig, A. (2016-Present). *Communication perspectives on popular culture*. Lanham, MD: Lexington.

**Presentations:**

**Herrmann, A. F.**, Herrmann, F. N., & Herrmann, J. S. (2018). *Deterioration: Experiencing frustration and failure in caring for our parents*. Paper presented at the 88th Southern States Communication Association, Nashville, TN.

Herrmann, A. F. (2018). *“We call BS!”: Reclaiming autoethnography’s prophetic voice*. Paper presented at the Fourteenth Annual International Congress of Qualitative Research, Urbana, IL.

**Melissa Nipper**

**Presentations:**

Nipper, M. (2017, September). The role of communication in the prevention of sexual assault. Presented at Escape from Rape Conference, Johnson City, TN.

Nipper, M. (2018, March 27). Sugar and spice and everything nice: An exploration of feminist formation. [Guest Lecture]. Paper presented in the ETSU Department of Communication & Performance, Issues of Communication and Culture, Johnson City, TN.

**Amber E. Kinser**

**Publications:**

Hamdy, R.C., **Kinser, A.**, Dickerson, K., Kendall-Wilson, T., Depelteau, A., Copeland, R. and Whalen, K. (2018). Insomnia and mild cognitive impairment. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 4(June), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721418778421>

Hamdy, R.C., **Kinser, A.**, Culp, J.E., Kendall-Wilson, T., Depelteau, A., Copeland, R. and Whalen, K. (2018). Agnosia interferes with daily hygiene in patients with dementia. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 4(June 1-8). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721418778419>

Hamdy, R.C., **Kinser, A.**, Kendall-Wilson, T., Depelteau, A., Whalen, K., and Culp, J. (2018). Driving and patients with dementia. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 4(May), 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721418777085>

Hamdy, R.C., **Kinser, A.**, Kendall-Wilson, T., Depelteau, A., Whalen, K. (2018) Impulsive, disinhibited behavior—Dining in a Restaurant. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 4(March), 1-7. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721418756994>

Hamdy, R.C., **Kinser, A.**, Depelteau, A., Lewis, J.V., Copeland, R. Kendall-Wilson, T., and Whalen, K. (2018). Repetitive Questioning II. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 4(February), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721417740190>

Hamdy, R.C., **Kinser, A.**, Lewis, J.V., Copeland, R., Depelteau, A. Kendall-Wilson, T., Whalen, K. (2017). Hallucinations are real to patients with dementia. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 3(Nov.), 1-5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721417721108>

**Presentations:**

Kinser, A. E. (2018, April). [Panel Coordinator]. Managing the digs: Narrative excavations of family, home, and elder care. Presented at the Southern States Communication Association, Nashville, TN.

Kinser, A. E. (2018, April). Fierce competitors: Cohabiting morbidities, caregiving approaches, and work/life 'balance.' Presented at the Southern States Communication Association, Nashville, TN.

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

In AY 2017-2018, the team participated in numerous tournaments, including: Belmont Front Porch Swing and the TN Intercollegiate Forensics Association State Tournament, to name a few.

In addition to the team taking home multiple awards, they hosted the 2017 Buccaneer Invitational, a debate tournament for high school students. Displaying their commitment to collaboration, Erin and Laughton worked with various contributors across the ETSU campus: Office of Summer and Winter Sessions, Office of Admissions, Office of Financial Aid, and College of Arts and Sciences.

President Brian Noland generously contributed his time and experience, addressing the Buccaneer Invitational in the opening ceremony and sharing his own undergraduate debate experiences.

Then, in April 2018, the team again hosted a tournament, this time the ETSU Parli Plunder. Bringing together eight schools, including UVA and VMI, the Parli Plunder welcomed 50 competitors, the most this tournament has ever had.

Congratulations for demonstrating how debate and forensics reaches local, regional, and national communities.



## **Delanna Reed**

Reed, D. (2018, August). Stories of the Vance family [Author & Performer]. Vance Birthplace State Historic Site, NC.

Reed, D. (2018, June). Creating character voices [Workshop]. NSN National Storytelling Summit, Kansas City, MO.

Reed, D. (2018, March 3). [Featured storyteller]. Performed stories for Tennessee Viticultural and Oenological Society Annual Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN.

Reed, D. (2018, February 24). Ridin' the rails: Tweetsie & Clinchfield Railroad stories [Director]. Tanasi Arts and Heritage Center.

As Coordinator of the Storytelling Program, **Dr. Delanna Reed** tackles numerous projects. For example, throughout AY 2017-2018, she leant her expertise to the 2018 TriPride Festival, serving on the Board and helping plan, coordinate, and implement the weeklong celebration (scheduled for September 2018).

Delanna demonstrates her tireless commitment to communities by advising graduates and undergraduates and bringing to campus storytelling concerts. Additionally, she coordinates the Story Slams, and participates in the National Storytelling Summit and the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild.

Not surprisingly, Delanna earned the 2018 Chair's Award for Exceptional Service.

## Thomas Townsend

### **Publications:**

Townsend, T. (2018) A groundhog moment: Examination of a pivotal emotional singularity. *Qualitative Inquiry*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077800417750678>

Let's talk about **Ellen Young's** contributions to **Learning Support (LS)**. Our department's LS Director, Ellen engages in applied research as part of her position.

Ellen analyzes LS-student retention data, as well as program requirements and restrictions. In addition to conducting reviews and assessments, she facilitates lecturer training.

Partnering with colleagues like Ms. Melissa Nipper, Ms. Terrine Brown, Dr. Andrew Herrmann, and Dr. Wesley Buerkle, she reviews LS designs, goals, and operations, soliciting instructor feedback and investigating appropriate resources, like classroom materials. She researches, designs, and pilots Best Practice in Teaching principles (e.g. Learning Communities) which have resulted in doubled retention numbers.

Also, there is a translational component to her position: Ellen communicates her findings to administrators, faculty, students, and other stakeholders associated with the LS program.

Under Ellen's direction, our department's Learning Support thrives, underscoring ETSU Core Values, such as, "People comes first, are treated with dignity and respect, and are encouraged to achieve their full potential."

## Graduate & Undergraduate Student Activities ~Selected~

### Graduate theses & capstones:

#### **John Byron Brooks**

(M.A., May 2018)

Capstone Project: *The interesting narrative of Olaudah Equiano: A solo performance by John Brooks*

#### **Chelise Fox**

(M.A., May 2018)

Thesis: *Worlds with words: Discourse and frame analysis of performance storytelling*

#### **Mary Lawrence**

(M.A., May 2018)

Capstone Project: *Stories from my heartland: Funny, poignant and personal tales from Missouri*

#### **Tessa McCoy-Hall**

(M.A., May 2018)

Thesis: *Up on the mountain, down in the valley: The law, my mother, and me*

#### **Angela Duggins**

(M.A., December 2017)

Thesis: *A constructive logic approach to crafting performance-for-development narrative*

### Honors-in-discipline theses

#### **Samuel Sevigny**

(B.S., May 2018)

Honors-in-discipline Thesis: *Academic partnership: The impact of student-faculty interaction on undergraduate students' success*

#### **Alexandra Drumwright Ward**

(B.S., May 2018)

Honors-in-discipline Thesis: *A traditionally modern "princess": Gender stereotypes in Disney's Moana*

#### **Rebekah L. Cisney**

(B.A., May 2018)

Honors-in-discipline Thesis: *Coffee shops and third space: Communicative practices in-between*

## ETSU Funding Opportunities



### ETSU Internal Funding

#### Overview

[https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding\\_opps/internal.php](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>



## **ETSU Internationalization Faculty Grant Program**

### **General Information**

[https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding\\_opps/internal.php#Internationalization](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](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](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](https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#Collaborative)

### **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](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](http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/publicize/symposium_form.php)