



DEPARTMENT *of* COMMUNICATION
and PERFORMANCE

College of Arts & Sciences

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Spotlight on Scholarship:
AY 2014-2015 Report

Prepared by

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Presented to

Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair

&

The Communication & Performance Faculty
September 10, 2015



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Welcome back, friends & colleagues!

Below, you'll see highlighted some of our AY 2014-2015 accomplishments in the Department of Communication & Performance.

Into communities

In AY 14-15 quite a number of you carried your work into various communities, nationally and internationally. Both Delanna Reed and Joseph Sobol took their storytelling projects on the road, traveling to multiple destinations. Likewise, Cara Harker and Delbert Hall facilitated a multitude of workshops.

Local and regional communities also benefited from your expertise. Karen Brewster partnered with Barter Theatre in Abington, VA. And late this summer, Pat Cronin played Rothko in John Logan's *Red* at the Parkway Playhouse, Burnsville, NC. See the feature story in the *Yancey Common Times Journal* (August 12, 2015).

And you didn't neglect our campus communities. Under the direction of Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship, members of the ETSU Debate Team organized *The Great Weed Debate* on April 20, 2015. There is a great write-up in *The East Tennessean*: <http://www.easttennessean.com/news/view.php/865203/ETSU-hosts-The-Great-Weed-Debate>. Wesley Buerkle participated both during ETSU Civility Week and the ETSU INtopFORM workshop, conducting interactive workshops to various audiences, including students, faculty, and administrators.

Awards & honors

Andrew Herrmann & Joseph both received the 2015 *Chair's Award*. They were honored for their many contributions across teaching, research, and service. Bobby Funk, Joseph, and Wesley secured grant funding for their exciting and critical scholarly projects.

In addition to directing *Trojan Women*, Herb Parker received the *Excellence in Directing Meritorious Service Award* from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (February 2015). Also, let's recall that Amber Kinser was inducted into the Motherhood Hall of Fame in May, as described on the Museum of Motherhood's official website: <http://mommuseum.org/motherhood-hall-of-fame/>.

Publishing & performing

Amber, Andrew, and Debert published books in AY 14-15. Plus, Andrew, Cara, and Herb have books in development; all have signed contracts with prestigious publishers. And, as typical of our highly productive faculty, we had multiple essays, chapters, and peer reviewed articles published or forthcoming.

Advising & mentoring

As Research Coordinator, I have had the opportunity to speak with you and document your scholarly accomplishments, all the while amazed at your energy to pursue important work in your own area of expertise.

Still, as busy as you are, you make time to advise our student scholars about opportunities like the *Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium* and the *Appalachian Student Research Forum (ASRF)*.

This year we had ten (10) majors/minors participate in Boland and one (1) in ASRF, representing:

- ✚ Communication Studies: David Cigorroa, Brooke Maynor-Rayfield, Dakota Reynolds, Jamie Stewart, Michael Wallace
- ✚ Theatre & Dance: Eva Alom, Blakely Bays, Brittany Heim, Reagan James, Jessica Vest
- ✚ PCOM: Inés Galiano-Torres

More than advising students to submit their work to these events, you mentor them through the experience. Each Boland and ASRF participant had at least one of our faculty present for her/his presentation or performance—Most students had many more observers from our department to cheer and support them. Cara even Skyped in to support her advisees, Eva Alom, Jessica Vest, and Blakely Bays (HID Thesis). Now that is characteristic of the dedication I see every single day in the Department of Communication & Performance.

Gratefully,

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

As always, a big Thank You! to Ellen Young & Lori Ann Manis. In AY 14-15, as department webmaster Ellen updated our website, providing information about faculty scholarship. (Starting this year, K.C. Gott will be taking over that important job). Thanks for all the years of work, Ellen! Also, Lori Ann proofed and edited a number of critical materials, helping ensure that your work is well represented.

~ Faculty Scholarly Activities~
(Selected)

 N.I.A.

Cara Harker had her non-instructional assignment (NIA) in Spring 2015. Amber Kinser is on NIA Spring 2016. If you're interested in learning more about NIA opportunities, check out this link:
<http://www.etsu.edu/senate/facultyhandbook/forms.aspx>.

 Grant activities

Wesley Buerkle (PI)

Buerkle, C. W.(2014-2015). *Using peer modeling to reduce plagiarism*. Small Research Grant. Awarded by the ETSU Research Development Committee.

Bobby Funk

Funk, B. (2015). *Creation of an "Introduction to Theatre Class" online lecture series*. Instructional Grant. Awarded by the ETSU Instructional Development Advisory Committee.

Joseph Sobol

Sobol, J. (2014). *Advanced training in oral traditional storytelling techniques at Wildwood*. Presidential Grants-in-Aid. Awarded by the ETSU PGIA Committee.

Wesley, Bobby, & Joseph applied for grant funding during AY 14-15 and Joseph is preparing for another PGIA submission. Though some applications were not funded, each received funding from at least one committee/agency.

What's particularly inspiring about these three faculty members is that they take chances by exploring opportunities with varied funding sources.

~ Faculty Scholarly Activities~
(Selected)



Selected academic publications, presentations, & performances

Karen Brewster

Brewster, K. (Forthcoming, Fall 2015). Theatre jobs [Working Title]. *Southern Theatre Magazine*.

Karen devoted June 2015 to costume design for Barter Theatre's main stage production of Southern Fried Nuptials. The reviews suggest that it was a rip-roaring show made even more so by the fabulous costuming! <http://www.bartertheatre.com/shows-and-tickets.php?show=84&title=Southern+Fried+Nuptials#shows>

Wesley Buerkle

Buerkle, C. W. (*In press*). "Just along for the ride?: A father-to-be searching for his role." In Fiona Green and Gary Pelletier (Eds.). *Essential Breakthroughs: Conversations about Men, Mothers, and Mothering*. Toronto, Canada: Demeter Press.

Wesley's grant-funded collaborative research on student citation and interventions to reduce plagiarism earned him an invitation to be a featured presenter at ETSU's INtopFORM (August 2015). There, he reached around 30 faculty and administrators across multiple colleges.

Kelly A. Dorgan

Dorgan, K. A. (2014). Controlling my voice: Producing and performing a special-mothering narrative. In A. Kinser, K. Freehling-Burton, T. Hawkes (Eds.). *Performing Motherhood: Artistic, Activist, and Everyday Enactments*. (pp. 132-148). Toronto, Canada: Demeter Press.

Dorgan, K. A., Duvall, K. L., & Hutson, S. P. (2015). At the intersection of cancer survivorship, gender, family, and place in Southern Central Appalachia—A case study. In C. Rice, & M. Tedesco (Eds.). *Women of the Mountain South: Identity, Work, and Activism* (pp. 466-470). Athens, OH: The Ohio University Press.

Kelly A. Dorgan & Amber E. Kinser

Dorgan, K. A., Duvall, K. L., Hutson, S. P., Kinser, A. E., & Hall, J. M. (2014). Connecting place to disease and gender: Cohabiting morbidities in narratives of women cancer survivors in Southern Central Appalachia. *Women's Studies in Communication*, 37(3), 292-312.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/SNf78AhdSHqVQJmyYsh2/full>

Bobby Funk

Funk, B. (2016, April 7-10). [Director]. *The night Thoreau spent in jail*. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

In partnership with the Sports Literature Association (SLA), ETSU Department of Literature & Language, & ETSU Women's Studies, Bobby brought to life Cynthia Cooper's How She Played the Game. In addition to a June performance for the SLA conference, the play ran September 8 & 9, 2015. Bobby even received a congratulatory email from Cooper who attended (and enjoyed) the summer performance.

Delbert Hall

Hall, D. (2014). *Rigging math made simple*. (3rd Ed.). Johnson City, TN: Spring Knoll Press.

Hall, D., & Sickels, B. (2014). *The Rigging math made simple workbook*. Johnson City, TN: Spring Knoll Press.

Hall, D., & Sickels, B. (Forthcoming, September 2015). *The arena rigger's handbook*. Johnson City, TN: Spring Knoll Press.

Hall, D. (2014, September 12). *Terminating wire rope without hardware*. Presentation for USITT-SE Masterclasses, Tallahassee, FL.

Hall, D., & Deull, J. (2014, October 25-26). *Aerial and Circus Rigging* [Workshop]. Golden, CO.

Hall, D., Deull, J., & Pierce, R. (2014, November 19-20). *Advanced rigging for aerial performances* [Workshop]. LDI Institute. Las Vegas, NV.

It's easy to lose count of the number of workshops, Masterclasses, and consultations Delbert tackled in AY 14-15. Just in Fall 2014, Delbert conducted 5 workshops in places like Tallahassee, FL and Las Vegas, NV. Also, he consulted on a Romanian production of Phantom of the Opera and taught workshops for Sea World riggers.

Cara Harker

Harker, C. (2014). [Director & Choreographer]. *Oklahoma!* East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Harker, C. (2015). *Choreographing through constraints: Embracing practical and created obstacles when making dances*. Presentation at the University of Lincoln, United Kingdom.

Harker, C. (2015). *This could be habit forming: Finding inspiration from everyday movement*. Presentation at the University of Derby, United Kingdom.

At last count, Cara held 5 workshops/presentations in AY 14-15. To much acclaim, she also directed and choreographed the ETSU Department of Communication and Performance's production of Oklahoma! On top of it all, she recently signed a book contract to publish Introduction to Aerial Dancing: Flying Foundations [Working Title]. More on that in the coming semesters . . .

Andrew Herrmann

Herbig, A., Herrmann, A. F., & Tyma, A. W. (2014). (Eds). *Beyond new media: Discourse and critique in a Polymediated Age*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739191026>

Herrmann, A. F., & DiFate, K. (2014). (Eds). The new ethnography: Goodall, Trujillo, and the necessity of storytelling. *Storytelling, Self, Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Storytelling Studies*, 10. (Special Issue.)

Herrmann, A. F. (2014). Ghosts, vampires, zombies and us: The undead as autoethnographic bridges. *International Review of Qualitative Research*, 7, 327–341.

Herrmann, A. F. (2014). The ghostwriter: Living a Father's unfinished narrative. In T. Adams & J. Wyatt (Eds.), *On (writing) families: Autoethnographies of presence and absence, love and loss* (pp. 95-102.) Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.

Herrmann, A. F. (2015). Walking in Kierkegaard's instant and walking out of American Christendom. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*, 4, 91-119.

Herrmann, A. F. (In press). On being a homeless work of fiction: Narrative quests and questions. *International Review of Qualitative Research*.

Andrew is again collaborating with Art Herbig from University of Indiana-Perdue University. This time they are developing an edited book series for Lexington Press: Communication Perspectives on Popular Culture. The project promises to unite some of the top scholars publishing in the field.

Amber Kinser

Kinser, K. E., Freehling-Burton, K., & Hawkes, T. (Eds.). *Performing motherhood: Artistic, activist, and everyday enactments*. Toronto, Canada: Demeter Press.

Amber was inducted into the Motherhood Hall of Fame in May 2015. This award honored Amber as a woman of "Practical and Political Inspiration," thereby celebrating the contributions she has made with her scholarly books and peer-reviewed articles on mothering and feminism, mothering myths, mothering movements, and mothering realities.

Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship

Messmer, L., & Blankenship, E. (2015, April 20). [Event Coordinators]. *The great weed debate*. East Tennessee State University. Johnson City, TN.

The Great Weed Debate (GWD) on April 20th, 2015 proved to be well-attended and loudly applauded. Laughton and Erin worked with diverse panelists and active Debate Team members like Paige Taylor, helping the event reached over 300 attendees in the ETSU community. The GWD was informed by research, underscoring the importance of translating scientific and social scientific data to broader communities.

Herb Parker

Parker, H. (2014, Fall). Let's do color-inclusive, not color blind, casting. *Southern Theatre Magazine*, 4.

Parker, H. (2015, April 16-18). [Director]. *The Trojan women*. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Adding to a productive spring of directing The Trojan Women and workshoping at the Southeastern Theatre Conference, Herb has been hard at work on a book project, A Monologue is an Outrageous Situation! How to Survive the 60-Second Audition. Forthcoming from Routledge, Herb's book is expected to be available in February, 2016.

Delanna Reed

Reed, D. (2015, February 25). [Director]. *Reflection in the mirror*. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Last winter, Delanna initiated a collaborative project, JSG Kansas City Road Trip. After months of planning, 7 storytellers, including Delanna herself, traveled over summer from Jonesborough to Kansas City, MO, the site of the 2015 National Storytelling Conference. The group gave storytelling concerts in venues across 4 states. But it's not over—Currently, Delanna is exploring making a documentary about the project.

Joseph Sobol

Sobol, J. (Forthcoming, 2016). The next last of a breed? Dynastic succession and resistance in an Appalachian storytelling clan. *Storytelling, Self, Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Storytelling Studies*, 11(2).

Sobol, J., Bishop, T., & McMaken, C.J. (2015). Religion and spirituality in cancer care [DVD/Online Module]. The Cancer Stories Project: Interactive Modules.

Sobol, J. (2015, March 21). [Composer & Performer]. In the deep heart's core: A mystic cabaret. Performance at the Quail Ridge Concert Series, Jonesborough, TN [Various dates/venues performed; the first in the series is listed here].

Sobol, J. (2015, August 13-14) [Co-Coordinator]. Storytelling stage. Umoja Festival, Johnson City, TN.

Joseph was front & center at the 2015 Cancer Stories Project's summer dissemination conference. After years of research, the transdisciplinary project team (family medicine, clinical oncology, storytelling, for example) rolled out its intervention phase. Presenting 5 communication training modules at the conference, the team's long-term goal is to improve healthcare professional cancer communication. Pat Cronin performed in a storytelling play Dispatches from the Other Kingdom on the first day of the conference, bringing together Storytelling and Theatre faculty for

~ ETSU Funding Opportunities~

 ETSU Research Development Committee

Small Research Grants

<http://www.etsu.edu/research/rdc/smallgrant/default.aspx>

Major Research Grants

<http://www.etsu.edu/research/rdc/major/default.aspx>

Interdisciplinary Research Grants

<http://www.etsu.edu/research/rdc/interdisciplinary/default.aspx>

 ETSU Instructional Development Committee

General Information

http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.aspx

 ETSU PGIA

General Information

http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.aspx

 ETSU Travel Award for Arts & Sciences Faculty

http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/documents/TAASF_Guidelines.pdf

 ETSU Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities

Undergraduate Travel Grants

http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/sfcgs.aspx

Student-Faculty Collaborative Grants

http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/sfcgs.aspx

Keep in mind: Many of these internal grants have early fall deadlines. Check the URLs above; some grant committees have started awarding funding twice/AY. Also, check with me if you're interested in applying. I may know a faculty-mentor who could advise you.