



Communication Studies

Faculty Activity Report Fall 2018

Activities and Accomplishments

Dr. Tim Appignani received his Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Illinois at Chicago, specializing in media studies with an additional concentration in Women and Gender Studies. His dissertation, entitled “Sometimes The Old Ways are Best: Regressing 007,” is a structural narrative and critical discourse analysis that examines the structures of feeling present in the James Bond franchise as it contends with issues of techno-masculinity in a digital era.

In November, **Dr. Billy Earnest** co-presented a short course, “Playing with the Truth: Teaching Courses in Deceptive Communication,” at the annual National Communication Association (NCA) conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Teresita (Tere) Garza published a co-authored article with Dr. Maureen Ebben (University of Southern Maine). The article is entitled, “When They Go Low, We Go High: First Lady Michelle Obama’s Feminist Rhetoric of Inclusion.” Published in the peer reviewed Organization for the Study of Communication and Gender (OSCLG) journal, *Women and Language*, the article appeared in the Winter 2017/18 special issue (the publication became available Fall 2018).

In November, **Tere** presented her research at the 2018 NCA convention. Her competitively selected paper is entitled, “When Hashtags Don’t Play: #MeToo, Media Ecology, and Feminist Activism.” The Media Ecology Division of NCA sponsored the session.

***Tere** presented another competitively selected paper, “Senses of Time, Space, and Place in Social Media Resistance,” at the 19th Annual Media Ecology Convention in Bangor, Maine (June 2018).

During the fall, **Tere** was invited to serve as a reviewer for a special issue of the journal *Women’s Studies in Communication* focusing on #MeToo.

Tere achieved a major professional milestone in May—she was promoted to Full Professor with Tenure. She was also formally bestowed the status of Affiliated Faculty of the Master of Liberal Arts Program by **Dr. Kris Sloan**, Director of the Master of Liberal Arts program.

School of Arts & Humanities

In September, **Dr. Stephen King** attended the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Seminar for Department Chairs in San Diego, California.

Stephen (co-author Dr. Roger D. Gatchet, West Chester University—Pennsylvania) presented a competitively selected essay, “Silence and Memory: A Rhetorical History of Civil Rights Tourism in Mississippi,” at the 2018 NCA conference. This essay received an award for its inclusion on the Top Papers Panel for the African American Communication and Culture Division. During the conference, Stephen also attended a short course entitled, “Creative Play in the Communication Course: Warming Up for the Workout.”

In September, **Mr. Matt Koshmrl** received recognition from the U.S. State Department for his work with the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Reciprocal Exchange Component 2018. He led a three-day film workshop to promote connection and collaboration with Zimbabwe’s film production community.

In October, **Matt** received a City of Austin Cultural Arts Grant for his feature film, *Dokdo: Lone Island*, an upcoming documentary about the roots of identity, legacy, and national sentiment.

At the 2018 NCA conference, **Dr. Stephanie Martinez** presented, “Ripping off the Band-Aid: Cancer at Midlife” (Ethnography Division). This essay will be published in the forthcoming edited book entitled *Narrating Midlife Crisis, Transition, and Transformation* published by Lexington Press (see “Works in Progress”).

Dr. Innes Mitchell received a SPICE grant for Fall 2018 to produce a series of films on his hike of the Lycian Way, in Turkey, last summer 2018. Part 1 of the series can be viewed on YouTube.

Dr. Lori Peterson presented an essay entitled, “And Then There Were Two, 2.0,” at the 2018 NCA conference (Ethnographic Division). At the NCA conference, she also served as a panel organizer for the peer-reviewed paper session entitled, *Narrating Through the Myths of Midlife: An Authors’ Forum* (Ethnography Division), and Panel Chair for the peer-reviewed paper session *From Daughtering to Caregiving: Negotiating Family Role Expectations, Portrayals, and Enactment* (Family Communication Division). In the area of service, **Lori** is a member of a number of university committees including: Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC), At-large representative, 2018-2020; Faculty Senate, At-large senator, 2018-2020; Faculty sponsor, AIESEC, 2018-present.

Dr. Nancy Reiter-Salisbury completed her Ph.D. at the University of the Rockies (Denver, CO). Her doctorate is in Organizational Development and Leadership with a specialization in Social Media and Technology. Her dissertation is entitled, “Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Communication and Organization Development in Small and Medium-Size Enterprises.”

School of Arts & Humanities

Nancy presented, “Personal Learning Networks: Leveraging Digital Connections” at the Texas Digital Learning Conference in Austin. **Nancy** also attended a number of conferences: PRSSA National Conference (Austin) (Public Relations Student Society of America); PRSA National Conference (Austin) (Public Relations Society of America); Social Media and Digital Communications Conference at Amazon (Seattle, WA). She is the faculty advisor to PRSSA’s SEU Student Chapter.

Dr. Teri Varner presented, “Can We Do a Better Job of Teaching Listening? A Quantitative and Qualitative Look at Metacognitive Listening Strategies at Play in the Classroom” at the 2018 NCA conference. In addition, **Teri** is currently serving as the appointed Chair of the International Listening Association Nominating Board (2018-2019).

In September, **Teri** engaged in cross disciplinary teaching: “Scientific Communication” for SCIE 2101- STEM Student Leadership Development Seminar. She developed the Mock Grant-Pecha Kucha Oral Presentation Rubric. She also completed the following certification: Certificate of Completion Awarded by EVERFI through St. Edward’s University: Harassment & Discrimination Prevention.

Visiting Instructor **Susan Whiteside** fully incorporated service-learning into the classroom during the Fall 2018 semester. Students in COMM 3360 Advertising Creative Strategy were challenged to partner with nonprofit organization Hungry Souls to develop an advertising plan and materials that addressed food insecurity in Austin. A semester-long service-learning approach was taken in COMM 4326 Public Relations for Nonprofit Organizations. Students in that class adopted the university’s Department of Communication as their client, and student teams were tasked with evaluating the image of the department and current use of promotional communication. They then developed public relations plans to build awareness and understanding of the Communication major. Proposed tactics included a humorous “Mean Tweets” video featuring the faculty responding to tweets about communication and a COMM Department Instagram account to promote department news and activities.

*Recent unreported activities

Works in Progress

Billy Earnest and co-authors (Drs. Mark Knapp, Matthew McGlone, Darrin Griffin) are completing work on a new edition of *Lying and Deception in Human Interaction*. Expected publication date: 2019.

During the fall semester, **Mr. James McNabb** completed gathering data for his planned paper on the efficacy of drafting a script for public speaking. **Jim** completed a draft of this essay during the holiday break. He plans to submit the essay to a journal.

Lori Peterson and co-editor, Christine E. Kiesinger (independent scholar), are completing work on a book project:

Peterson, L.W. & Kiesinger, C.E. (Eds.). *Narrating midlife: crisis, transition, and transformation*. Lexington, KY: Lexington Books (an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield). Expected Spring 2019 publication.

Stephen King and Roger D. Gatchet are working on a book project entitled *Marking the Past, Engaging the Present: Mississippi Civil Rights Tourism*. This book project is under contract at the University Press of Mississippi.

Teri Varner and co-author Dr. Laura Janusik (Rockhurst University) will submit qualitative research, “(Re)Discovering Metacognitive Listening Strategies in L1 Environment,” for review to the *International Journal of Listening*.