

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

s o m e t h i n g t o t a l k a b o u t

interpersonal/organizational | rhetoric | performance

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Congrats Fall 2015 Graduates!

The Department of Communication Studies had one of the biggest Hooding and Senior Graduation Ceremonies to wrap up the Fall semester. This is a special time for our faculty and grads to reminisce and gather one last time in an intimate ceremony. This fall we recognized 28 undergraduates and 4 masters graduates. We were joined by guest speaker Alumna Angela Brewer who was also recognized as our Horizon Award Winner as an outstanding alum. She spoke to the graduates about her life after college and urged grads to embrace opportunity because their degree has shaped them for anything.

A green light to greatness.

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[To see more photos from the ceremony please visit our facebook by clicking here!](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Communication Studies Alum Steve Judice Excels in Courtroom and on Stage



Texas Red Dirt music gets its name from the color of the soil in Oklahoma and features artists like Cross Canadian Ragweed and Casey Donahew Band. With the recent growth of the popularity of this music, who would have known that one of our alums is not only a lawyer, but also a successful Texas Red Dirt/Americana musician? Meet Steve Judice (M.A. 1980). Steve is a songwriter from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has released three solo albums and has opened shows for artists like Guy Clark, Billy Joe Shaver, and Ray Wylie Hubbard. Steve enjoys playing at music festivals throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.



Steve attended graduate school in the late 70's at North Texas State University. Steve chose to get his Masters in speech communication because he participated on the debate team in high school and college. He was also a speech education major during his undergraduate program at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now called University of Louisiana at Lafayette). Steve didn't know what he wanted to do with his life, but knew that he wanted to stay in academia. Steve emphasized, "there is a buffet of options in front of you when you're young, and it is important to explore different avenues and love what you do."

Steve moved to Denton with his wife Kathy to complete their graduate degrees and while here they both assisted the UNT Debate Team. Steve and Kathy shared a desk in the graduate assistant office and were together almost 24 hours a day. All of that time together could either wreck a marriage or make it stronger, and their marriage has been strong for the past 37 years. Steve and his wife have four daughters, including a teacher and mother of two, a manager at an orthodontics office, a professional dog trainer, and a singer on a cruise ship. Steve said his daughter who works on the cruise ship "has the amazing opportunity to see the world on somebody else's dime," while also carrying on the family's musical legacy.

Steve spoke about Denton life while he was in graduate school and recalled that it was a relatively small town. "Denton would just go to sleep on the weekends," instead of having the bustling nightlife that it has now. Also, "Fry Street only had private clubs with any place selling beer or hard liquor needing memberships." He did recall a drive-in beer barn on Fry Street, which we are sure many students wish was still there. Being the outstanding student that he was, Steve didn't spend too much of his time on Fry Street, and instead spent much of his time with his studies and music.

After graduating from UNT, Steve moved on to teach debate at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. After teaching for a short time, he realized that teaching wasn't for him. His wife Kathy suggested law school and it was there that he discovered a passion for law. He found that his communication degree helped, especially in trial work, to connect with the jury and establish credibility. Steve stated that "understanding communication and communication behaviors is vital to success in a trial."

However, Steve is not just a lawyer. He emphasizes the importance of “finding joy in the other things that you’re doing,” which inspired him to start a music career. Steve found his passion for music when his aunt gave him the 1961 vinyl of Jim Reeves album, “Tall Tales and Short Tempers,” when he was 10 years old. Steve said “I practically wore that record out. It may have been around that time that the seeds of songwriting were sown.” Steve started playing guitar at 16; his brother-in-law was in the Navy and would leave his guitar with Steve when he would ship out. Steve said that learning to play “G, C, and D chords lets you play every country song,” such as Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire.”

Playing music, as he suggests is, “a wonderful release.” Steve said he could sit for hours at his guitar and piano and forget about work and stresses. He started performing after he went to graduate school and began writing his own songs around 2005-06. Steve said that in order to write music, “you need to be willing to receive inspiration from wherever it comes,” but it doesn’t hurt that his wife talks like a songwriter to be his inspiration. He even expresses this in “Kathy’s Song” by saying “They say we’re shaped and defined by the things we love.”



Because of Steve’s success in music, he was able to play at his “bucket list” venues, including the legendary Gruene Hall and Riley’s Tavern, which is the oldest bar in continuous operation in Texas. Steve has also played Geezer Fest at Oma Greens for six years in a row. Steve has played alongside Rodney Parker and Fifty Peso Reward, a band from our very own town of Denton.

Steve comments that Communication Studies has influenced his work as both a lawyer and musician, however it also influences his daily life. As Steve said, there are so many options that you have when you’re young, and his degree has helped him to be successful in his career and find joy in life. If you would like to listen to Steve’s music, please visit his [Facebook page](#) and tell him that you’d love to see him play in Denton!

-Written by Taylor Bell, Communication Studies Undergrad/Librarian/Social Media Intern

CLASSWORK



Undergrad Samantha Call and her partners after their group public performance of Rap Culture for Joanna Lugo's class.



The installation art piece, "Purple Rain\Rein\Reign" from the Intertextuality & Performance Class.

UNT DEBATE

Debate-A-Palooza



UNT Debate once again sponsored Debate-A-Palooza, this time on November 21. This public event features a series of public debates held by UNT Students all on the same day. This year students debated the Denton confederate monument, legalization of marijuana in Texas, legalizing prostitution, body cameras for police, carbon emissions, raising the minimum wage, physician assisted suicide, campus carry, and defunding Planned Parenthood. Also this year, Debate-A-Palooza students participated in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's astrobiology debates topic, which was, "Resolved: An overriding ethical obligation to protect and preserve extraterrestrial microbial life and ecosystems should be incorporated into international law." You can read more about the debates at www.nasadebates.org. UNT Debate will continue to participate in the NASA debates in the Spring semester.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Lambda Pi Eta Induction and Donation Drive



Lambda Pi Eta inducted 11 students this fall. Dr. Morrissey, LPH advisor recalls, "The event was the most well attended induction I have hosted (inductees invited a number of friends and family to be there as support). The students gave me narwhal slippers that will plug into my computer and keep my feet warm." A number of LPH officers graduated this fall and they will be hosting elections to fill their positions in January, including VP of Social Programming, VP of Communications, VP of Philanthropy, and VP of Academic Programming.





This semester LPH also headed their annual donation drive. They collected about 3 large garbage bags full of household items for Friends of the Family!! Thank you all for your generous donations!

AROUND TOWN & OTHER NEWS

National Communication Association Convention 2015



NCA comes only once a year and is a time for us to gather with Communication Studies colleagues, scholars, students, alumni and friends. This year the 101st convention was held in Las Vegas, Nevada!! Many of our students “won big” by having the honor to present at the conference. Also, our very own Dr. Holley Vaughn was elected Western Representative to the Nominating Committee of the Performance Studies Division. Pictured below are some of our wonderful Alums, including Christi Saindon, Kayla Rhidenour, Andrea Baldwin, Joe McGlynn, Elizabeth Whittington Cooper, and Gigi Perez Langley meeting together and showing some “Mean Green Pride!”



Faculty Directed Show: Menagerie



"Menagerie" was a compiled performance piece directed by Joanna Lugo and Dr. Justin Trudeau that focused on the topic of animality by means of anthropomorphism (attributing human like qualities to animals) and theriomorphism (attributing animal like qualities to humans). The show looked at the intersections of human and animal consciousness and begs the question whether or not "man" should be the measure of all things.



Directors and cast of Menagerie taking shelter from a tornado opening night!
What a wild night!!

PREVIEWING 2016

SSCA Convention: Congrats to our UNT Presenters!



Students in Dr. Brian Richardson's crisis communication class will be presenting their class papers at the 2016 Southern States Communication Association's annual conference, to be held in Austin. Students will present their research in the Applied Communication division on a panel entitled "Organizational Crises as Contexts for Contested Conscience." The papers address a number of well-known organizational crises, including the recent Blue Bell Ice Cream crisis (Kyle Hammonds & Mary Knickerbocker), the case of the controversial resignation of

former Reddit CEO Ellen Pao (Brian Ontiveros-Kersch), the Baylor University football program's sexual assault scandal (Anna Marsden), the Texas A&M bonfire tragedy (Laura Lynn Peck), and the contested case of Adnan Syed as presented on *Serial* (Ashley Trudeau).

Congratulations to All UNT Communication Studies Presenters listed below:

Romancing the Serb: Temporality & Visualism in Narrative Journalism
Matea Ivanovic, University of North Texas

It's a New Day: Challenging the History of Race-Based Stables in Professional Wrestling
Kristine Weglarz, CPA Canada
Respondent: Justin Trudeau, University of North Texas

"Pure Pwnage!": Challenging Masculinity in the Gaming Culture
Mary Knickerbocker, University of North Texas

Zodiac
Flora Ceka, University of North Texas

Joanna Lugo, University of North Texas

"Bring in an Honest Verdict": Enacting the Horrors and Violence of Whiteness in *American Slavery As It Is*

Justin Trudeau, University of North Texas

Megan Morrissey, University of North Texas

All Men Must Die, All Women Must Suffer: Gender in *Game of Thrones*

Daniel Mitchell, University of North Texas

Chair: Brian K. Richardson, University of North Texas

A Case Study of Reddit's Glass Cliff Crisis

Brian Kersch, University of North Texas

Blue Bell's Ice Cream Crisis and the Conflict of Public Narratives

Kyle Hammonds, University of North Texas

Mary Knickerbocker, University of North Texas

Baylor Football's 2015 Sexual Assault Scandal

Anna Marsden, University of North Texas

Evidence of Conscience When Organizational Crisis Results in Personal Tragedy

Laura Lynn Peck, University of North Texas

An Examination of the Sense-Making Processes of 'Fan' Stakeholders

Ashley Trudeau, University of North Texas

Re-Embracing the Flaneur: Chance Based Performances of Place and Space

Panelists: Justin T. Trudeau, University of North Texas

Layering Narratives: The Collection and Coalescence of Post-Traumatic Re-Performances**

Anna Marsden, University of North Texas

The Right to Marry: Negotiating (In)dependence as a U.S. Border Rhetoric

Megan Elizabeth Morrissey, University of North Texas

Flamingo Fever: For Flock's Sake! Stop Being So Fowl

Holley Vaughn, University of North Texas

Bomba

Joanna Lugo, University of North Texas

In Celebration of John LeBret

Panelists: Holley Vaughn, University of North Texas

"He's Given Careful Deliberation": Jeb Bush, Family, and Conscience Politics

Brian Lain, University of North Texas

SexTalk: Affirmative Consent, Title IX Enforcement, and the Regulation of Sex on College Campuses

Brian Lain, University of North Texas

Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Tourism and Transformative Pedagogy

Panelists: Holley Vaughn, University of North Texas

You're Not the Boss of Me Now: Guilt Communication in the Workplace

Ashley Trudeau, University of North Texas

Cassandra Gersh, University of North Texas

Maymester in Nicaragua with Comm Studies

Dr. Brian Richardson will be teaching a Study Abroad course in Nicaragua during Maymester 2016. The course, which will be co-taught by Emergency Administration professor Dr. Laura Seibeneck, addresses International Disaster Communication. After meeting in Denton for lectures and to discuss logistics, the students and instructors will spend one busy week in Nicaragua. They will visit three of Nicaragua's most prominent cities, including Managua, Granada, and Leon, learning from officials and professors how the country prepares for, responds to, and recovers from disaster situations. Students will also learn about Nicaraguan history and culture. The course will be facilitated by Explore 505, a study abroad provider in Nicaragua, led by UNT alum Anthony Spencer. This is the second such course offered by Drs. Richardson and Siebeneck; the first group traveled to Peru. Students interested in registering for the course and acquiring more information, should contact Dr. Richardson at richardson@unt.edu.



LOOKING FORWARD

Dates to Remember:

Last Day of Late Registration, January 20th

First Day of Class, January 19th

Southern States Communication Association Convention, April 6th-10th, Austin Tx

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