



UNT Department of Communication Studies

Newsletter

Fall 2019

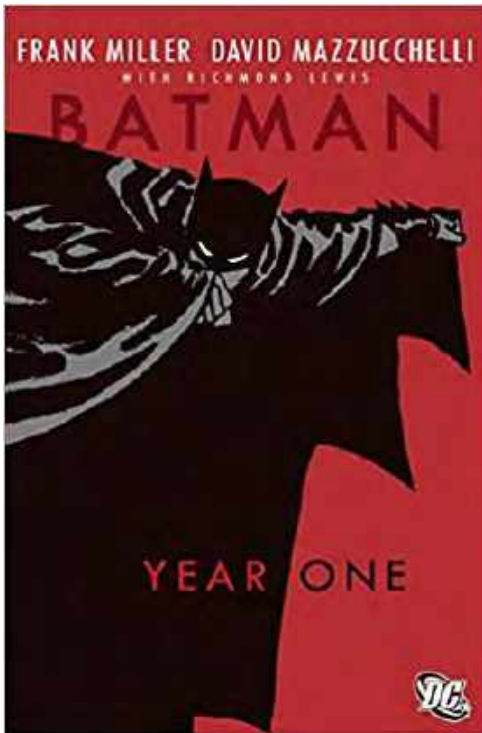


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Alumni Spotlight

Kyle Hammonds and Dr. Anderson-Lain Publish Article on Popular Culture and Reflexive Pain



We are proud to announce Kyle Hammonds (MA, 2016) and Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain's upcoming article "The Batman Comes to Class: Popular Culture as a Tool for Addressing Reflexive Pain" which will appear next year in *Dialogue: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Popular Culture and Pedagogy*. Hammonds and Anderson-Lain utilize a case study approach to examine ways in which comics and graphic narratives can be used to provide context within which undergraduate students may theorize about culture. Hammonds and Anderson-Lain used *Batman: Year One* as an organizing narrative for students to theorize about culture and communication. Hammonds is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Oklahoma.

Amnee Elkhaid Receives Research Grant to Research Refugee Experiences

Alumnae Amnee Elkhaid (B.A. 2016, M.A. 2018) received her M.S. and B.A. with a minor in management at the University of North Texas where she studied interpersonal, organizational, and health communication. She received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award during her time at UNT. Most recently, she was awarded a research grant from the Rebecca Verser & Alumni Graduate Student Support fund at the University of Missouri to expand her research of refugee experiences. Elkhaid is planning on visiting Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon next year as part of this research.



Amnee Elkhaid pictured far left

Elkhaid is currently a doctoral student at University of Missouri. You can visit her profile here: <https://communication.missouri.edu/people/elkhaid>

Alumni Spotlight

Holly Hutchins Presents TED Talk on Imposter Syndrome

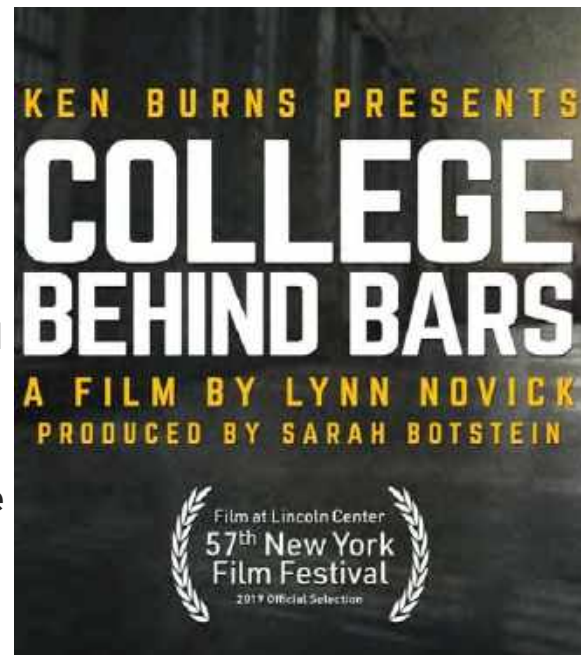


Holly Hutchins (B.A. 1992, M.A. 1994) received her PhD at UNT in Applied Technology, Training and Development (2004) and pursued a career in academia. Now, she is a researcher, professor, and department chair at the University of Houston. Most recently, she presented a TEDx talk in Sugar Land about imposter syndrome, an area of research and a personal experience for her. "The bad news is that if you experienced feeling like an imposter you're probably going to feel it again. But the good news about that is that you're not alone. " She went on to

give advice on how to cope with Imposter Syndrome if you experience symptoms. You can view her TED Talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow4UIZrR4V0>

UNT Debate Alumnus David Register is Recognized in PBS Documentary

David Register (M.A. 2007) was a debate coach for the Communication Studies department at UNT in the mid-2000s. Now, he uses those skills as a professor at Bard College in New York. Aside from this work, Register also spends time every week instructing inmates in debate at the Eastern New York Correctional Facility. His students made international headlines when they defeated a Harvard debate team in 2015. Most recently, Register has been interviewed for a PBS documentary. "College Behind Bars" explores the transformative power of education through the eyes of a dozen incarcerated men and women trying to earn college degrees from one of the country's most rigorous prison education programs.



Alumni Spotlight

Monica Allen (M.A., 2013) is a Marketing Manager at Hill & Wilkinson General Contractors. She lives in Plano, Texas, with her husband, Patrick, and their one-year-old twins, Alexia and Anson.



Dezzra Gomez (B.A., 2013), who also goes by 'Dezz', is the morning news producer for KXII-News in Sherman, TX. As the morning producer, she typically plans and manages the newscast from start to finish. She is in constant communication with both news anchors and the newscast director while filming the show, which she believes is the key element to any successful newscast. In her spare time and also when she's not glued to a TV screen watching the news, she's listening to various podcasts or hanging out with her friends and significant other.

Devin Lewis (B.A., 2018) is an Associate Pastor at First Denton. He still lives in Denton, Texas, with his wife Briley, and two dogs, Baloo the Bear (not an actual bear) and Briar Rose. Devin and Briley spend the majority of their time with family including their four younger siblings. They also enjoy complaining about their different ideas of what speed a neighborhood bike ride should take place, decorating the house and re-decorating when Devin leaves, and getting to know their Amazon Delivery Drivers far too well.



Joe Lundblade (B.A., 2007) is a Business Process and Systems Analyst at Petco. He lives in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Amanda, and three children, Dillon (age 5), Max and Parker (twins age 2).

Alumni Spotlight



Jannie Nelson (B.A. 2007, M.Ed 2009) is an Assistant Principal in DeSoto ISD. She lives in Glenn Heights, Texas, with her husband, Brian II (2007 and 2009 UNT grad), and their two children, Brian III (age 3) and Aria (age 2).

Dr. E. Michele Ramsey (M.S. 1995) is an Associate Professor of Communication Arts & Sciences and Women's Studies at Penn State, Berks College, where she founded the college's degree in communication arts and sciences. Her book, *Major Decisions: College, Career, and the Case for the Humanities*, will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in March 2020.



Monica Shallenberger (B.S. 2007) is an instructional officer of professional learning for Klein ISD.

Trevor Watson (B.A. 2008) is a Managing Director at Fidelity Investments. He has served in a relationship management position for the financial institution for 5 years. He lives in Highland Village, Texas, with his wife Grace (also UNT class of 2008) and three children, Faye (age 8), David (age 6) and Hattie (age 4).



Current Alumni, Please Keep in Touch!

We love to hear what our alumni are up to after they leave and embark on great educational and career adventures. Please share your stories with us, and we'll share them on our website. Feel free to share any news to our email

at: commstudies@unt.edu

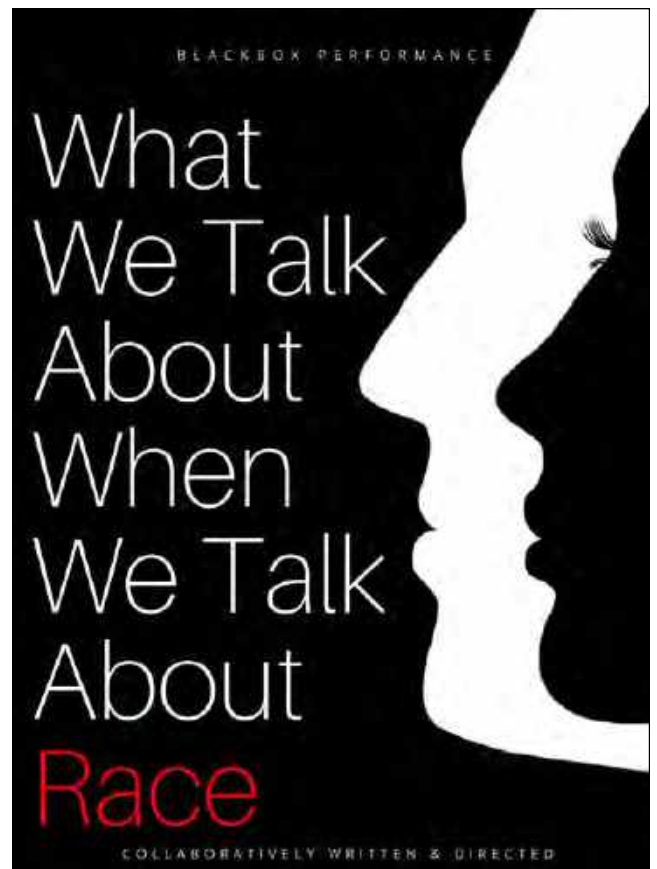
Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Jay Allison started his career at UNT in 1989 after securing his PhD from LSU. It was at that time that he inherited the nationally recognized performance program established at North Texas by Ted Colson. In his time at UNT, Dr. Allison has written, directed, and/or performed in over 28 unique performances. He has also written over a dozen book chapters and academic journal articles, a marker of his long involvement with *Text and Performance Quarterly*. It is this work that has helped to advance performance studies in our discipline and in our communities, and it is this work that has earned Dr. Allison the 2019 NCA Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance. This prestigious award is given to persons who have contributed an outstanding body of live performances. The award may be given to directors, producers,

teachers, or performers. The award will normally be given for a body of performance or an outstanding career in performance. It may, in exceptional cases, be given to performers of a single or a smaller body of performance. NCA recognized Dr. Allison's dedication and contribution to Performance Studies over his entire career. We are grateful and proud of his service to our department and to our students.

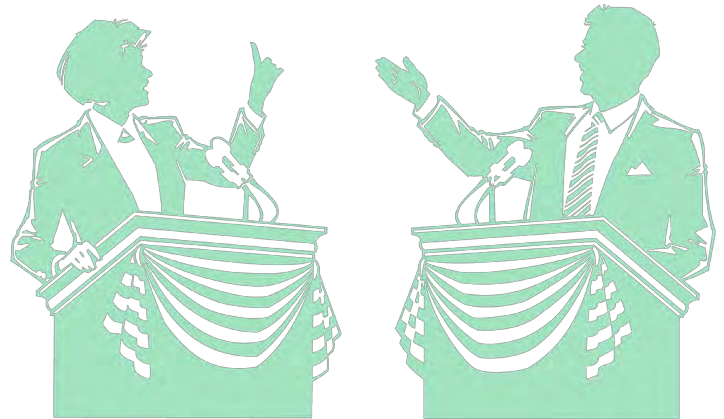
Notably, Dr. Allison was a collaborative director and performer in *What We Talk about When We Talk about Race*. Dr. Trevor Parry-Giles, the executive director of NCA announced the award at NCA. On behalf of Dr. Star Muir, President of NCA, Parry-Giles explained that this performance "included 7 distinct and intertwined scenes, each of which depicted the problematic nature of our discussions about race in America. The breadth and quality of this work situate Dr. Allison as an outstanding performer and scholar."



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Lain and Dr. Anderson-Lain Publish Article on High School Debate and Civic Engagement

Dr. Brian Lain and Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain's upcoming article "Networking debate and civic engagement: Measuring the impact of high school debate camp" will appear in Carol Winkler's (editor) *Networking Argument: Selected Works from the 20th NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argument*. Lain and Anderson-Lain explore the connection between debate and civic engagement through an examination of the influence of summer debate camp on 239 middle school and high school students. This research was born out of the success of the UNT Debate summer Program, the Mean Green Workshops. Students reported an increase in their civic duty and civic skills. They reported more confidence and willingness to engage in research and offer their own opinion on civic issues. This is the first study of its kind to attempt to quantify the impact of debate activities on youth development of their sense of civic engagement.



Dr. McGlynn Publishes Article about Instagram Profiles and Trust Indicators



Dr. Joseph McGlynn recently published an article in the journal *Communication Research Reports*, entitled, "Present, Endorsed, and Active: Instagram Cues that Predict Trust." The product of a multi-disciplinary collaboration, the study was co-authored with Yang Zhou, Alex Han, and Dr. Yan Huang from the UNT College of Engineering. The study focused on identifying factors of Instagram profiles that influence judgments of trustworthiness for potential online collaborators. When people make judgments about trust online, they look for available cues on which to base those decisions. Results indicated people showed increased trust for users whose Instagram profiles featured a high proportion of pictures that included themselves, as opposed to pictures of

food or landscapes. Results also illustrated that people showed increased trust for users who received high levels of endorsement from others in the form of likes and comments on their posts, and who demonstrated high levels of public activity on the site. Dr. McGlynn and colleagues note that the results demonstrate specific profile features that affect judgments of trustworthiness for potential online collaborators, and offer recommendations for how people can communicate trustworthiness effectively and efficiently to other users through social media.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Richardson Publishes Article on Stakeholder Perceptions of Whistleblowers



Dr. Brian Richardson recently published an article titled, "Stakeholders' attributions of whistleblowers: The effects of complicity and motives on perceptions of likeability, credibility, and legitimacy" in the journal *The International Journal of Business Communication*. The study, co-authored with Dr. Johny Garner from TCU, addressed factors which might increase or reduce stakeholder support for organizational whistleblowers. The study sampled two

stakeholder groups: university alumni and members of fraternities and sororities. Both groups found complicit whistleblowers, those who participated in the wrongdoing they were now reporting, as less likeable and credible than innocent whistleblowers. Richardson and Garner argue whistleblowers who can gain stakeholder support will be more successful than those who do not; however, stakeholders can vary their support based on their attributions of whistleblower activity.

Dr Ahmed Publishes Article on Team Performance Factors

Dr. Iftekhhar Ahmed's forthcoming article titled "Stability of Membership and Persistence in Teams: Impacts on Performance" in the journal *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice* investigates the impact of membership stability on performance in action teams which engage in multiple tasks over time using a sample of 4871 teams from a Massive Multiplayer Online Game. The study contrasts closed teams in which membership is constant over time with open teams in which membership changes over time.

Results suggest that closed teams were more successful than open teams. Results also suggested that variability in membership had positive effects in that open teams were able to sustain their effectiveness for a longer time than closed teams. The study, co-authored with Dr. Marshall Scott Poole of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Dr. Andrew Pilny of the University of Kentucky, was supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Army Research Institute, and Air Force Research Lab.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Morrissey's Publication List Grows



Dr. Megan Morrissey recently published an article entitled, "Border Matters: A New Materialist Critique of Installation Art on the U.S. - Mexico Border" in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*. The essay analyzes two large installation art projects by French Artist JR that were installed along the U.S.-Mexico border in 2017 (Kikito and the Giant Picnic). As Morrissey explains, Kikito and the Giant Picnic momentarily punctuated the 2,000-mile material boundary that demarcates national legacies of conquest, violence, and exclusion, but in their brief existence, challenged those who encountered them to (re)consider the border's function and their relationship to it. Specifically, Morrissey uses these installations to argue that the U.S.-Mexico border is in a constant state of being remade through the emerging, ongoing, and

dynamic relationships between people, language and physical space, a claim that pushes rhetorical scholars to reconsider the ways knowledge about the border is produced and circulated

Dr. Morrissey also has a chapter titled, "Calaveras, Calacas and Cultural Production: The Queer Politics of Brown Belonging at U.S. Día de Los Muertos Celebrations" forthcoming in an edited collection. This chapter was an invited contribution for the book titled *Queer Intercultural Communication: The Intersectional Politics of Belonging in and Across Differences* edited by Dr. Shinsuke Eguchi and Dr. Bernadette Calafell. In this chapter, Morrissey explores four of the largest U.S. Día de Los Muertos celebrations, focusing on the way the ofrenda (altar) is symbolically constituted in these spaces. Beginning with the knowledge that the people crossing the nation's southern border are regularly characterized as racially other, sexually deviant, and socially dangerous, she argues that the ofrenda queers understanding of Brown Latinx people in the United States, making it a productive site for adjusting the conditions of U.S. belonging and inclusion.



Master's Hooding December 2019



Mary Collins received her Master's Degree with a focus in Interpersonal, Digital, and Organizational Communication

Rachel Jackson received her Master's Degree with a focus in Interpersonal, Digital, and Organizational Communication



Shannon Johnson received her Master's Degree with a focus in Performance Studies

Eluno Molokwu received her Master's Degree with a focus in Interpersonal, Digital, and Organizational Communication



Garrett Zettel received his Master's Degree with a focus in Interpersonal, Digital, and Organizational Communication

National Communication Association



We had a number of students present at NCA 2019. Among our graduate students in attendance were: Emily Boldt, Melissa Brown, Zane Dayton, Les Delgado, Lexie Nelson, Jennifer San Miguel, and Kassie Hall. Additionally, Kendal Lyssy is the only undergraduate student in attendance from UNT COMM Studies. We are proud of these students and their work!



Student Activities

COGS (Communication Organization of Graduate Students)

Pre-NCA Panel

In support of the seven students accepted to present their research at the National Communication Association (NCA) annual convention in Baltimore in November, the Communication Organization of Graduate Students (COGS) coordinated a public research panel on Friday, November 8th. Each student had the opportunity to present their research to some of their peers and professors, getting a feel for how they might better hone their messages to an audience unfamiliar with their work. Since we had a variety of presentations accepted for NCA, some students shared their projects in a 10 minute presentation that highlighted their arguments and findings, while other students practiced presenting their research based on large posters that visually depicted their projects. Dr. Joe McGlynn served as the chair for this panel presentation and Dr. Suzanne Enck worked with COGS to coordinate this event.



Notably, our students were also very successful in securing grants for the conference this year. Committed to ensuring that these deserving students would be able to travel to the east coast for several days, Dr. Enck worked with each student to help them apply for travel grants from a variety of sources. Our students were incredibly successful in their quest for competitive travel grants across a variety of funding sources including UNT's College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, UNT Toulouse Graduate School, and the National Communication Association. Collectively, our students received over \$6500 in travel grants, ensuring that they were able to present their work at this national conference.

Pot Luck



The beginning of the fall semester is always an exciting time for our graduate students, full of new classes, new demands, and new faces. This semester, the COMM faculty worked to ensure that the grad student space was stocked with a variety of food staples throughout the semester — The only kind of hunger we want in the GAB is a hunger for knowledge. In September, the COMM faculty hosted a potluck for our grad students, showing off the culinary skills of our faculty. Needless to say, the grad students really ate it up!

Student Activities

PIGs (Performance Interest Group)

The PIGs had two opportunities to partner with the Girl Scouts of America this semester. At the first event, COMM students Sloan Scott and Hannah Kimble represented PIGs at this event by working a station that taught Girl Scouts about the solar system. At the next event, Glory Sanchez, Logan Swafford, Juliana Cohen, Sloan Scott, and Hannah Kimble performed for the group as famous female athletes. The focus of the panel was to teach the Girl Scouts that girls can do anything. The PIGs had a great time connecting with the Girl Scouts and sharing the stories of amazing athletes.



Lambda Pi Eta

Lambda Pi Eta, the UNT Communication Studies Honors Society, continues to thrive and hosted several successful events this past semester. Fall 2019 LPH events included a philanthropic warm-clothes drive to benefit Denton-area homeless shelters, a Zen-themed distress study break to help students get ready for final exams, and academic enhancement events such as our Graduate Student Panel. Lambda Pi Eta's semester culminated with their official induction event in which they welcomed 10 new members.



Newly Inducted Members

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chelsie Bruce | Marisol Espinal -Romani |
| Xitzel Jimenez | Runako Gee |
| Hannah Mosing | Nychel Menchaca |
| Sarah-Eden S. Rouser | Erica Rhodes |
| Autumn Todd | Delancy Walker |



Student Activities

COMM Future Pros

COMM Future Pros had a very productive Fall 2019 semester! As always, we are dedicated to providing members with valuable resources and tools to prepare them for the rapidly expanding, and changing, communication oriented job market. We hosted several COMM alumni for our monthly meetings including:

- Jessica Felts, Communications Leader at American Airlines
- Kelly Rodriguez, Sr. Manager of Talent Selection at Brinker International
- Ashley Thomas Seltzer, Sr. Graphic Designer at DynCorp International
- Talia Esskandanian, Director of Global Inside Sales at Avigilon



Our fundraiser at Chipotle was a huge success and will allow us to provide refreshments for future meetings, gifts for guest speakers, and offer special events.

Alumni, if you are interested in speaking at a COMM Future Pros event, please email Dr. Richardson at Richardson@unt.edu.

Interested in More Information?

Consider checking out our website for more information about any of these organizations, including the current officers, upcoming events, philanthropy opportunities, and much more.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of them, let us know by emailing CommStudies@unt.edu

UNT Debate

Debate-A-Palooza

On November 21, 2019, UNT hosted Debate-A-Palooza in the University Union. This event featured seventeen public debates around the topic, "This house believes that social media is necessary for democracy." Over 150 UNT students, faculty, and staff came to watch the public debates that introduced more than 150 student-presenters (some debating for the first time that day). As one student said, "It was intense, they (the other students) were prepared, but I enjoyed it, I am ready for the next one."



(You can watch this response and more at <https://www.youtube.com/user/UNTDebate/>)

British Debate



On October 22, 2019, UNT Debate faced off against the British National Debate Team. Senior COMM Studies Major Alyx Dickson and Junior International Studies Major Josiah Atkinson debated against Niamh Thompson, a graduate of medicine from the University of Glasgow in Scotland, and Dan Scanio, philosophy graduate of Oxford Brookes University, a master's in corporate

law from Durham University, and bar professional training course from The University of Law). The British affirmed the topic, "This House would ban junk food." In an excited and passionate debate about fried food, cultural origins, and the epidemic of obesity and heart disease, UNT Debate turned most of the audience around by the end of the debate and left the 300 attendees of the debate talking about it for days.

UNT Debate

Debate Success

The UNT Debate Team, coached by departmental faculty, finished 11th place at the 2019 Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament hosted by Hofstra University, which featured more than 750 competitors from 77 universities and colleges from 28 states. Pi Kappa Delta, founded in 1911, is among the oldest speech organizations in the United States. The team won the International Public Debate Association Division at the Fall Texas Interscholastic Forensics Association (TIFA) tournament held at Southern Methodist University in November. This comes on the heels of also winning the overall award at the Spring TIFA championship held at Texas A & M University in February. UNT debate has won a state debate title every year since 2016.



Debate Task Force

Recognizing the need to support UNT Debate and Speech more fully by alumni, Ms. Cathy Krendl, class of 1962, chairs a recently formed UNT Debate Alumni Task Force. The Task force meets quarterly and its mission is to reconnect with Alumni and support the activities of UNT Debate and Speech. In its first year the Task Force has establish a relationship with the UNT Foundation and UNT Advancement, held quarterly taskforce meetings, and hosted its first official fundraiser which occurred from October to November 2019.

If you are a debate or speech alumni and are interested in assisting, please contact Brian Lain (Blain@unt.edu) or Cathy Krendl (cathy@krendl.com).

Events and Other News

2060 and PIGs

Showcases

The 2060 showcase featured top performers from Dr. Vaughn's COMM 2060, Performance of Literature course. Students who excelled in the performance of their first project in the course, a poetry performance, were invited by Dr. Vaughn to perform in the one-night showcase. Not only was this exciting for the students, but also for the department. Peers and professors alike were elated to see the new talent in the department and to share in the thrills of a black box experience. Of course, we commend these students for going above and beyond the expectations of any 2000-level course.

The following night, the PIGs showcased performances from upper-level performance classes or their personal works. Because of the nature of this event, the types of performances that the PIGs showcased were varied. Some poetry, some Avant Garde, and even some body work were all performed by our students. We venerate these students, and Dr. Trudeau, for their work in allowing a space for performance studies to exist outside of the classroom and outside of productions. The work that our students do in the Performance Interest Group is critical to our craft, and appreciated by our faculty and staff.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE SHOWCASES

NIGHT 1:
COMM 2060
FRIDAY
NOV. 22

NIGHT 2:
PIGS
SATURDAY
NOV. 23

BLACK BOX (GAB 321) 7-9P.M.

COMM 2060 STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR CLASS PERFORMANCES

STUDENT GENERATED PERFORMANCES ON VARIOUS TOPICS

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS WITH A \$5 SUGGESTED DONATION IN GAB 309A



Events and Other News

Advocacy in Action



This semester, Dr. Anderson-Lain assigned COMM 1010 students to complete a project supporting a non-profit organization serving the Denton community. Each group researched the foundation, and then organized a fundraiser in which necessary resources were collected for the organization. The event was a huge success, generating significant help for the community. We are UNT Proud of the work our students are doing in the classroom and in the community! Or should we say, COMMunity?

Charities we served:

UNT Food
Pantry

Serve Denton

Denton County
Friends of the
Family

Monsignor King
Outreach Center

Salvation Army
Justin's Place

Our Daily Bread

North Texas Refuge
for Women

Denton Animal
Support Foundation

Denton Country
MHMR

Giving Hope

TFI Family Connections

Denton Humane Society

Children's Advocacy
Center

Toys for Tots

Zoie's Place



COMM Alumni Mentoring Program

Students and alumni braved the cold on November 12th to attend the second annual COMM Alumni Mentoring Program. There, 27 students and 24 alumni were partnered up based on their career aspirations and encouraged to form a professional mentoring relationship. After getting to know each other, exchanging contact information, and maybe even a few pics in the photo booth, students left having started a professional connection with someone in their desired field.

In attendance, we had a wide verity of professionals, including attorneys, public relations representatives, human resources administrators, and teachers. This is unsurprising, as a degree in Communication Studies is very versatile.



The keynote Speaker, Brittani Youman, is among our line of distinguished alumni. Brittani is the Field Sales Training Manager at Lennox, a renowned HVAC company. There, Brittani has climbed her way up the ladder making a reputation for herself as a hard worker and a humanitarian. Her projects have included Fields of Love, a program that supplies furnaces to families in need. What's more, Brittani is just the third African American territory manager since Lennox was founded over 120 years ago. Her interest in fostering diversity and inclusion at Lennox lead her to start the Women in Lennox Leadership foundation.

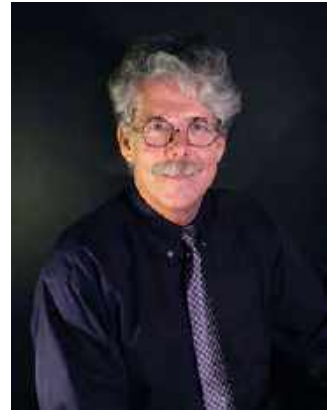
After the event finished, students and mentors were encouraged to keep in contact. Over the coming months, we are optimistic that these professional connections will pave the way for great things for our students and our alumni! In the meantime, we look forward to the next CAMP event in 2020! Alumni interested in volunteering for that event should reach out to us at COMMStudies@unt.edu .

Faculty Updates



Dr. Iftexhar Ahmed is now in his 8th year at UNT. His primary pedagogical responsibilities include teaching graduate Group Processes and Theory courses and undergraduate Group Communication, Organizational Communication, and Virtual Gaming. Dr. Ahmed investigates organizational collaboration, virtual groups, and human behavior in online environments. He has recently completed a 5-year long project on organizational collaboration funded by the NSF. Now he is writing a book based on the research findings. His recent ongoing projects include "The Global Initiative to Enhance @scale and Distributed Computing and Analysis Technologies (*GECA*)" and analysis of virtual group behavior.

Dr. Jay Allison began his 30th year of service to UNT in September 2019 and plans to retire on December 31, 2020. In November 2019, he was the recipient of the Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance from the National Communication Association. The award was given in recognition both of his career achievements as a performance scholar and for *What We Talk About When We Talk About Race*, a recent project he facilitated, co-wrote, co-directed, and co-performed with graduate and undergraduate students, alumni, and Dr. Holley Vaughn. The cast is reassembling to revive the production in April 2020 with revisions that take into account events that have transpired locally, regionally, and nationally since the original production. In his final year, Dr. Allison is looking forward to teaching graduate seminars in "Intertextuality and Performance" and "Performing Southern Culture" and undergraduate courses in "Storytelling, Narrative, and Everyday Life" and "Intertextuality." As is customary, the final performance in his Southern culture seminar—the final graduate seminar he will teach at UNT—will be a dinner gathering hosted in his home. The assignment has become legendary in the discipline. Seminar members arrive at a pre-defined "event" and perform as characters they have created during the semester. The event for the final performance will be a family reunion, to which he intends to invite all of the "family" that has taken the seminar over the course of his career.



Having completed her first decade at UNT, Dr. Suzanne Enck continues to teach a range of courses emphasizing the importance of civic engagement, encouraging students to explore how we come to understand issues of gender, race, sexuality, and class. In the spring of 2020, Dr. Enck will teach courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels examining social movements, protest, and resistance — timely topics and pragmatic skill-building in this time of U.S. and global tumult. Serving as the department's Director of Graduate Studies since 2015, Dr. Enck enjoys working to grow the graduate program and support the curiosities/ambitions of our grad students. Dr. Enck is heading into her last year of a 5-year cycle of leadership for the National Communication Association's (NCA) Feminist & Gender Studies Division. This role has involved planning for the division's 2018 conference and coordinating the division's 2019 top book, article, and scholar-activist awards. Dr. Enck's research centers around gendered violence, incarceration, and narratives of grief/death. She is currently working on completing her book project, *Storying Carceral Survival: Exploring Women's Pathways to Incarceration*, based on a series of life history interviews she conducted with incarcerated women in Dallas. This project traces how women's experiences of violence have shaped their capacity to

experience belonging, enact change, and imagine their futures. She is also working on a project examining cultural understandings of sexual violence as illustrated in the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings and a different project examining how people use stories and metaphors to make sense of grief and death.



Faculty Updates



This spring, Dr. Hlavacik is teaching Rhetoric & Inequality at the graduate level and Rhetorical Theory at the undergraduate level. He will offer Rhetoric & Politics this fall to coincide with the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Last semester, he taught Rhetorics of Ill Repute, an experimental course that addressed the relationship between rhetoric, political violence, mass deception, and relativism. As the advisor to the Communication Library since 2017, Dr. Hlavacik has overseen an expansion of its services and a move to a new space that has resulted in a marked increase in its use as a study space. Dr. Hlavacik's research concerns the ethics and tactics of political speech, with a special focus on how they manifest in public discussions of education policy. At the end of 2019, *Phi Delta Kappan* featured an essay by Dr. Hlavacik on the rhetoric of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Dr. Hlavacik's current research addresses the relationship between forensic rhetoric and democracy, both across the history of America public address and as an aspect of civic education. Recently, Dr. Hlavacik was invited to join the editorial board of *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*.

Dr. Brian Lain serves as Director of Debate at UNT and continues teaching courses in rhetorical studies. In 2019 he was awarded the Outstanding Online Course and Teacher award at UNT for his course, "The Zombie as a rhetorical figure." Dr. Lain continues to teach COMM 2140: Advocating in Public a sophomore level class. In addition to hosting a campus-wide, award winning event known as Debate-A-Palooza, this class also became the Department's first class to live-stream. Every lecture from Fall 2019 was video-cast for students to watch anywhere in the world. The class kept student involvement high by asking students questions during the live-stream. Dr. Lain also continues to turn his past experience into new projects as he is leading a best-practices group for the American Forensic Association on portfolios for debate faculty.



Dr. McGlynn strives for equanimity while balancing mutual goals of teaching, research, and service for the Department of Communication Studies. This past year he taught classes in Interpersonal Communication, Health Communication, and Theories of Persuasion, a course that seeks to blend traditional academic theory with practical modern wisdom. In addition, Dr. McGlynn received recognition for his research efforts with recent publications in journals such as *Communication & Sport* and *Communication Research Reports*. His latest line of research focuses on the health risks associated with concussions and head injuries in youth sports. Dr. McGlynn also serves as the Faculty Sponsor for Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Studies Honors Society, a student-led organization that makes efforts to promote academic and philanthropic excellence in our local community. As for hobbies, Dr. McGlynn practices yoga and meditation each morning with his cat MJ, and succeeded for the first time in somehow keeping a plant alive for an entire calendar year.

Faculty Updates



With Spring semester starting Dr. Megan Morrissey is looking forward to teaching two undergraduate classes, Latina/o Rhetorics and Rhetoric and Popular Culture. While she has taught these classes before, she is excited to bring current cultural conversations, political debates, and new project assignments into the design of each of these courses. She spent some of the break finalizing and submitting an essay on Rachel Dolezal and the ways that public discourse about her protect the privileged social locations of whiteness and heterosexuality. It's a good thing this will be off her plate as she is now gearing up to manage all of the conference planning for the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division's portion of the National Communication Association Convention in 2020. In addition to working over the break, she and Jenn just got back from a trip to visit their biological families in North Carolina over the holidays where Quinn got to spend lots of time with her grandparents, their dogs, and at some favorite local breweries and restaurants. If you ask Quinn, the best part of the break was seeing her first movie in the movie theatre - Frozen 2, of course.

Dr. Brian Richardson is now in his 18th year at UNT. His primary pedagogical responsibilities include teaching graduate courses such as Organizational Communication, Crisis Communication, and Communication Consulting, and the undergraduate course Communication and Sport. He recently developed an undergraduate course Theories of Crisis Communication and will teach the first iteration of that class in Fall 2020. He is also planning a study abroad course to Costa Rica this summer to explore disaster and crisis communication in that country. Dr. Richardson has had the opportunity to present some of his whistleblowing research last year at the "Exposing Secrets: The Past, Present, and Future of U.S. National Security Whistleblowing and Government Secrecy" conference in London, England. His next project will involve studying how whistleblowing affects the family members of whistleblowers. He is also working on projects examining athletic coach-parent communication, organizational culture and stress in human service occupations, and health messaging around youth tackle football.



Dr. Justin Trudeau has recently directed a show entitled *The Recovering*, and members of UNT's own substance abuse resource center as well as the collegiate recovery program office provided lively talk backs for those interested in learning more about campus resources on addiction and recovery. Along with colleague Holley Vaughn, Dr. Trudeau's most recent publication is "Big Tex is Burning: Performing Iconicity by Means of Collaborative Directing" which was published in Text and Performance Quarterly. In even bigger news Dr. Trudeau got married to Amanda Trudeau, a critical care nurse working for Medical City Dallas and they have four beautiful kids together; Jolie, Reid, Marcel, and Caroline!