



DEPARTMENT *of* COMMUNICATION
and PERFORMANCE

College of Arts & Sciences

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Spotlight on Scholarship:
AY 2021-2022 Report**

Prepared by

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Presented to

Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair

&

The Communication & Performance Faculty



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December 1, 2022

Greetings, Friends:

As you know, this is my final *Spotlight on Scholarship* annual report. For over a decade, I've had the honor of serving as Research Coordinator, a position that allowed me to archive, celebrate, and promote your scholarly, pedagogical, and creative activities.

Through organizational changes, social upheavals, and a global pandemic, you remained committed to our students and discipline, as well as to your professional visions.

Below, you will find a select list of AY 2021-2022 contributions.

Take a Bow

As usual, you took your training and talents into other communities. Dr. Delanna Reed was a featured performer for the National Storytelling Network. Dr. Wesley Buerkle offered a virtual talk to students at the University of Bangkok, and I (Dr. Kelly Dorgan) gave two readings—one virtual and one in-person—for my award-winning essay, “The Making of Crazy Fred.”

Several faculty members participated in conferences, including Dr. Christine Anzur who presented her solo-authored research on adult-adoptees. Also, she mentored several thesis advisees, one of whom (Emily Napier) presented a top student paper at the 2022 National Communication Association Convention.

Once again, Laughton Messmer and Donna Paulsen led the ETSU Speech and Debate Team to victory when students competed in several tournaments and brought home a dozen wins. As you recall, Dr. Erin Messmer stepped away from co-leading the debate team to serve as Director of Learning Support in Reading, and she did all that on top of completing and publishing her award-winning dissertation research. Now, though, she is leaving the department to work as the Assistant Director of Student Support Services at ETSU. Bravo, Dr. Messmer.

Thomas Townsend provided leadership for the [inaugural TEDx event here at ETSU](#) on Monday, April 4, 2022, helping coordinate our faculty coaches. Thomas, along with Adriane Flanary, Amber Kinser, Andrew Herrmann, Christine Anzur, Dallas Honeycutt, and Jamie Sproles mentored student-presenters and performers. More on that later, and keep reading about how Thomas joined with Nancy Donoval and Amber Kinser, to produce the newly launched [Story Garage](#), a podcast from the ETSU Storytelling Program.

And the Winner Is...

During the 2022 Department Advance, Dr. Amber Kinser announced the recipients of the annual Chair's Award: Adriane Flanary, Jamie Sproles, and Thomas Townsend. The three lecturers were selected as recipients, in part, because of student evaluations that identified them as especially engaged and compassionate educators throughout the pandemic.

Nancy Donoval's performance of her story "Great Escapes" earned her the title of Grand Slam Champion. Dr. Herrmann took home multiple major awards for his edited book, *The Routledge International Handbook of Organizational Autoethnography*. We highlight these accomplishments later in this report.

Graduate student Emily Napier took home first place in the Three-Minute Thesis Competition here at ETSU for her research, "The Instructor-Student Relationship: An Interpersonal Perspective," chaired by Dr. Christine Anzur. Also, Dr. Erin B. Messmer received a top honor for her recently completed dissertation research.

Read on to learn more!

In closing, thank you for allowing me to represent you these last eleven years. I retire from the university knowing that you will continue to do great work, and I look forward to cheering you on in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Dorgan

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

THANK YOU, LORI ANN MANIS.

You are a steady presence during both good and difficult times.

On a personal note, I appreciate all the ways you've supported my role as Research Coordinator, including proofing these annual reports.

Shout Out!

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

~Selected~

CHRISTINE ANZUR

Publications:

Anzur, C.K. (2023, January). A Risk Worth Concealing. In Donna McCart Sharkey (Ed.). [*Don't Tell: Family Secrets*](#). Demeter Press.

Anzur, C. (Under Review). "Do You Really Want to be Disappointed?": Adoptees' Expectations and Violations During Birth Family Contact.

Napier, E, & **Anzur, C.K.** (Accepted). Getting Excited for Our Class: An Experimental Examination of the Impact Instructor Self-Presentation has on Instructor-Student Rapport, Instructor Credibility, and Student Engagement. *Kentucky Journal of Communication*.

Weiss, J. K., & **Anzur, C. K.** (Revise & Resubmit). "Sometimes, During Deployment, It Seems Like We Won't Make It": Applying the Relational Turbulence Model to Couples Experiencing Military Deployment. *Family Issues*.

Presentation:

Anzur, C. (2022, November). "Do You Really Want to be Disappointed?": Adoptees' Expectations and Violations during Birth Family Contact. Presented at the 2022 National Communication Association Annual Convention.

Napier, E, & **Anzur, C.K.** (2022, November). Getting Excited for Our Class: An Experimental Examination of the Impact Instructor Self-Presentation has on Instructor-Student Rapport, Instructor Credibility, and Student Engagement. Presented at the 2022 National Communication Association Annual Convention, **Top Student Paper** in the Instructional Development Division.

ENGAGED MENTORS

Christine Anzur mentored Emily Napier from undergraduate thesis to her graduate thesis. But Christine doesn't end her mentorships after a student's successful defense.

Recently, she and Emily collaborated again, this time on publishing Emily's undergraduate honors thesis in the *Kentucky Journal of Communication*. That same co-authored paper earned the Top Student Paper distinction for Emily in the National Communication Association's Instructional Development Division. Additionally, Christine mentored Emily through the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition at ETSU where Emily took first place.

Once again, **Adriane Flanary** helped her students develop research and presentational skills. Using an "Online Presence" assignment, Adriane required that students investigate and analyze their online footprint to help them improve their professional persona. Moreover, she's attended various workshops, including Trauma-Informed Approaches and Inclusive Teaching Practices, and takes that information into the classroom to improve her own faculty mentorship efforts.

Amber Kinser continues as faculty mentor on the ongoing qualitative study, "Resilience, Creativity, and COVID-19" that emerged from her graduate methods course. The multi-phasic study began in 2021 with Amber mentoring student-researchers through data collection via interviews and focus groups (N=66) and data analysis of participants' personal and interpersonal strategies developed in response to the pandemic.

Wesley Buerkle often works behind the scenes to create opportunities for emerging communication specialists to be more fully mentored and trained within their program of study. Given the importance of storytelling in activism, business communication, and healthcare, our students will certainly benefit from his work to redesign the Communication Studies major. Collaborating with **Nancy Donoval, Delanna Reed**, and Communication Studies faculty, Wesley spearheaded the effort to knit together the Storytelling and Communication Studies program, thereby better positioning ourselves to nurture those connections across our programs' classrooms and benefit generations of emerging scholars, practitioners, and performers.

C. WESLEY BUERKLE

Publication:

Buerkle, W. (Forthcoming). "Dad Bros: Performing Fatherhood in a Social Media Group" In *Communicating Fatherhood: New Directions in Theory, Research, and Education*. Eds. Vincent Waldron and Thomas Socha. Peter Lang: New York City.

Presentations:

Buerkle, W.B. (2022, June). Not Seen on TV: Highlighting Consent's Absence in Mediated Images of Sex. Presented at the 2022 Symposium of the Applied Rhetoric Collaborative. Salt Lake City, UT.

Buerkle, W.B. (2022, April). A Cautionary Tale for BIPOC Women in Netflix's the *Chair*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern States Communication Association. Greenville, SC.

Virtual Presentations:

Buerkle, W.B. (2022, April). Picturing the Funny Bone: Cis-Male Frontal Nudity in Mainstream US Comedy. Presented at the annual meeting of the 2022 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Virtual.

Buerkle, W.B. (2021, September 22). Let's TALK About Gender and LGBTQ Identity: Communication Design for Diversity. [Guest Lecture] Presented to Communication Studies, Bangkok University International.

NANCY DONOVAL

Award:

Donoval, N.A. (2022, June 8). Great Escapes [Grand Slam Winner]. The Moth in the Twin Cities, Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.

Podcast:

Donoval, N.A. & Kinser, A.E. (2022). *Story Garage Podcast* [Executive Producers]. ETSU Storytelling Program.

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970>

https://www.etsu.edu/cas/comm_perform/departments-news/untitled.php

Virtual Workshop:

Donoval, N. A. (April 3, 2022). Crafting the Emotional Arc of Stories [Workshop Presenter & Facilitator]. Presented at the New Jersey Storytelling Guild [Zoom].

KELLY A. DORGAN

Publications:

Dorgan, K.A. The Making of Crazy Fred (2021). *Welter*. The University of Baltimore.
<https://blogs.ubalt.edu/welter/creative-nonfiction-2/the-making-of-crazy-fred/>.

Dorgan, K.A. (2021). Pandemic Professor. *The Reckoning: Tennessee Writers on 2020*.

Digital Reprints:

Dorgan, K.A. (2021, August 25). Under the Rhododendrons. *The Bookends Review* [Reprint].
<http://thebookendsreview.com/2021/08/25/under-the-rhododendrons/>.

Presentations:

Dorgan, K.A. (2022, April 8). *The Making of Crazy Fred*. [Reading]. Tennessee Mountain Writers, Oakridge, TN.

Virtual Presentations:

Dorgan, K.A. (2021, November 30). *The Making of Crazy Fred*. [Invited Reading]. Welter Online Reading Event, University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD [via Zoom].

ADRIANE FLANARY

Award:

Flanary, A. (2022, August). *Pandemic Pedagogy*. Chair's Award, East Tennessee State University Department of Communication & Performance.

ANDREW HERRMANN

Awards:

Herrmann, A.F. (Ed.). (2020). *The Routledge International Handbook of Organizational Autoethnography*. London: Routledge.

- International Association of Autoethnography & Narrative Inquiry [Best Edited Book Award \(2022\)](#)
- National Communication Association Organizational Communication Division Best Edited Book Award (2022)
- National Communication Association Ethnography Division [Best Book Award \(2021\)](#)
- Association for Business Communication [Distinguished Book Award \(2021\)](#)

Publications:

Herrmann, A.F. (2021). The Future of Autoethnographic Criteria. *International Review of Qualitative Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19408447211049513>.

Grants:

Herrmann, A.F. (2021). Diversity, Equity, and Open Educational Resources Grant. Tennessee Board of Regents. (\$21,000). In conjunction with the Office of the Provost, Sherrod Library, and the Center of Teaching Excellence; East Tennessee State University.

AMBER E. KINSER

Podcast:

Donoval, N. & **Kinser, A.E.** (2022). *Story Garage Podcast* [Executive Producers]. ETSU Storytelling Program.

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970>

https://www.etsu.edu/cas/comm_perform/department-news/untitled.php

ERIN B. MESSMER

Award:

Messmer, E. (2022, April). First-Generation Women Students' Perceptions of Support While Enrolled in Higher Education Institutions: A Phenomenological Study. [Recipient]. [East Tennessee State University Graduate School Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2022.](#)

Publication:

Messmer, E. (Forthcoming). First-Generation Women Students' Perceptions of Support While Enrolled in Higher Education Institutions: A Phenomenological Study. [Education Leadership Review of Doctoral Research.](#)

MOVING ON UP

Dr. Erin B. Messmer had notable professional accomplishments during AY 2021-2022: she won the [ETSU Outstanding Dissertation Award](#) for 2022, had her dissertation research accepted for publication, and was named the new Assistant Director of Student Support Services at ETSU.

Erin, thank you for your years of commitment to our students, department, and discipline. You will be missed, but we look forward to following your continued contributions to the university.

In addition to co-directing the ETSU Speech and Debate Team, **Donna Paulsen** will also step into the role of Secretary/Treasurer for Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensics Association State Tournament.

And speaking of moving on up...

Four years ago, **Nancy Donoval** won three Moth Story Slams, qualifying her to participate in the competition for the Grand Slam title. But because of the pandemic, there wasn't a Grand Slam for several years. In June 2022, though, she again qualified with her work "Great Escapes," a story about her final visit with her mother who had been battling Alzheimer's for seven years.

With this powerful story, Nancy once again claimed the title of Grand Slam Champion.

Andrew Herrmann made a major contribution to the discipline with his edited book [The Routledge International Handbook of Organizational Autoethnography](#) (2020). Arguably, though, his contributions have been amplified by the four separate awards conferred on his book, including the IAANI's [Best Edited Book Award, 2022.](#)

Congratulations to everyone taking on new opportunities and rising to new professional heights.

DONNA PAULSEN

Podcast:

Paulsen, D. (Forthcoming). Looking Glass [Podcast Segment]. [Story Garage](#), East Tennessee State University Department of Communication & Performance. <https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970>.

Presentations:

Paulsen, D. (2022, September 23-25). "Made to Mother? Debunking the Myths We Believe about Biblical Womanhood" [Featured Speaker]. Camp Selah Women's Retreat Speaker.

Paulsen, D. (2022, July 10-16). Look Up [Featured Speaker]. Camp Selah Junior High Week.

Paulsen, D. (2022, April 22-24). The Living Word: Still Powerful, Still Relevant. [Featured Speaker]. Morning Star Women's Retreat.

Paulsen, D. & Cymraes, D. (2022, February 8). Challenges and Opportunities in Qualitative Research [Guest Speaker]. Engaged Research Seminar, ETSU Department of Communication and Performance.

DELANNA REED**Performances:**

Reed, D. (2022, October 23). [Performance] Appalachian Tales and Ghost Stories. Vance Birthplace Historic Site, Weaverville, NC.

Reed, D. (2022, August 13). [Performance]. Medusa and Friends: World Snake Day. Artists Standing Strong Together.

Reed, D. (2022, July 2-3). [Performance] Jonesborough Days, Jonesborough, TN.

Reed, D. (2022, May 14). [Performance] Tanasi Arts Festival.

Reed, D. (2022, February 14). [Performance]. Intergenerational Storytelling. Artists Standing Strong Together.

Reed, D. (2021, December 11). Multifaceted Love Stories. [Featured Performer]. National Storytelling Network.

JAMIE SPROLES**Award:**

Sproles, J. (2022, August). Pandemic Pedagogy. Chair's Award, East Tennessee State University Department of Communication & Performance.

Presentation:

Sproles, J. (2021, October 5). [Guest Speaker]. Survey and Mapping, East Tennessee State University.

TEDx at ETSU

Thomas Townsend helped coordinate the [inaugural TEDx](#) at ETSU (April 4, 2022), a student-led campus event that focused on the theme “Connection” and brought together presenters and performers.

Prior to the event, Thomas and six faculty-mentors were selected as coaches, making the department the official coaching resource for TEDx presenters.

Faculty coaches included: **Christine Anzur, Adriane Flanary, Andrew Herrmann, Dallas Honeycutt, Amber Kinser,** and **Jamie Sproles.** Two of the ten presenters were students in our Communication & Storytelling Studies graduate program: Kelle Jolly and Jordan Bennett.

Congratulations on a successful event.

THOMAS TOWNSEND

Award:

Townsend, T. (2022, August). Pandemic Pedagogy. Chair’s Award, East Tennessee State University Department of Communication & Performance.

THE STORY GARAGE PODCAST

Nancy Donoval and **Amber Kinser** began working together on a special podcast project, beginning with an eight-week podcast production course taught by [StoryCenter](#), Berkely, CA, and was held via Zoom from August 10 to September 28, 2021.

Then, in Fall 2022, Amber and Nancy co-taught a podcast production practicum course, and now they serve as Executive Producers on [Story Garage](#), the newly launched podcast by the ETSU Storytelling Program.

Together with **Thomas Townsend** and **Cory Howard**, Podcast Producers, Amber and Nancy continue to venture into new territory.

The first episode, “Signposts and Circles,” was released on September 16, 2022, and it features segments by Dylene Cymraes (2022 graduate from the Storytelling Program) and Cory Howard (current graduate student). A new episode reportedly drops soon and features a segment by **Donna Paulsen.**

Follow developments over at the *Story Garage*. Here’s that link for you:
https://www.etsu.edu/cas/comm_perform/department-news/untitled.php.

Enjoy!

STUDENT RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

~selected~

THESES

Undergraduate:

Hornberger, Brooke (In Progress). A Relational Dialectics Analysis of Asian American Adoptees' Conversations about Race with their Parents (anticipated graduation May 2023). [Thesis Advisor: Christine Anzur].

Price, Christian (In Progress), Stigmas about Black Fatherhood: A Rhetorical and Quantitative Analysis of Stereotypes of Black Fathers (anticipated graduation May 2023). [Thesis Advisor: Christine Anzur].

Graduate:

Katt, Emily Sikora (2022, October 27). A Frayed Edge: A Qualitative and Poetic Inquiry Analysis of White Antiracist Protest in 2020. [Thesis Advisor: Amber E. Kinser].

Napier, Emily (In Progress). Development and Validation of the Instructor-Student Relational Maintenance Behavior Scale (anticipated graduation May 2023). [Thesis Advisor: Christine Anzur].

Smith, Casadie (In Progress). Evolving Mother-Daughter Conversations in a Post-Roe v. Wade World (anticipated graduation May 2023). [Thesis Advisor: Christine Anzur].

Smith, Zacharias (In Progress). Managing Religious & LGBTQ+ Identity Conflict in Appalachia. (anticipate graduation May 2023) [Thesis Advisor: Amber E. Kinser].

Wolven, Travis (2022, November 2). "It's About the Two Selves": Experiences in Code-Switching between Home and Academic Environments. [Thesis Advisor: Amber E. Kinser].

THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

Graduate:

Napier, Emily. (2021). [The Instructor-Student Relationship: An Interpersonal Perspective](https://www.etsu.edu/gradschool/etd/3minutethesis.php). **[First Place Winner]**. Presented at East Tennessee State University.
<https://www.etsu.edu/gradschool/etd/3minutethesis.php>

Katt, Emily Sikora (2021). Poetic Inquiry and Protest RePresentation. Presented at East Tennessee State University.
<https://www.etsu.edu/gradschool/etd/3minutethesis.php>

Pizzino, Leticia (2021). Once Upon Online: Adapting from In-Person to Virtual. Presented at East Tennessee State University.
<https://www.etsu.edu/gradschool/etd/3minutethesis.php>

CAPSTONES

Graduate:

Cymraes, Dylene (2022, May). Exploring Belonging and Othering with Story Circles: A Proposed College Writing Course Design [Capstone Chair: Nancy Donoval].

Gourley, Wendy (2021, December). Only Love: Parental and Community Support of Transgender Youth in Conservative Faith Communities [Capstone Chair: Nancy Donoval].

Pizzino, Leticia (In Progress). Once Upon Online: Adapting from In-Person to Virtual Storytelling [Capstone Chair: Delanna Reed].

RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS

Podcasts:

Cymraes, D. (2022, September 16). Circles. [Podcast Segment]. [Story Garage: Signposts & Circles](https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970), East Tennessee State University Department of Communication & Performance.
<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970>

Howard, Cory. (2022, September 16). Signposts. [Podcast Segment]. [Story Garage: Signposts & Circles](https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970), East Tennessee State University Department of Communication & Performance.
<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/24392970>

Publications:

Napier, E, & Anzur, C.K. (Accepted). Getting Excited for Our Class: An Experimental Examination of the Impact Instructor Self-Presentation has on Instructor-Student Rapport, Instructor Credibility, and Student Engagement. *Kentucky Journal of Communication*.

Presentations:

Isbister, Vianna. (2022, January 4-5). "At Least You're Not Gay": Breakdowns of Communication Regarding the Liminal Spaces of Sexual Identity. Presented at the 2022 International Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry.

Napier, E, & Anzur, C.K. (2022, November). Getting Excited for Our Class: An Experimental Examination of the Impact Instructor Self-Presentation has on Instructor-Student Rapport, Instructor Credibility, and Student Engagement. Presented at the 2022 National Communication Association Annual Convention. **Top Student Paper** in the Instructional Development Division.

Paulsen, D. & **Cymraes, D.** (2022, February 8). Challenges and Opportunities in Qualitative Research [Guest Speaker]. Engaged Research Seminar, ETSU Department of Communication and Performance.

Stamos, James. (2022, January 4-5). Escape into the Digital World: Using Video Games as a Method of Finding Community and Coping. 2022 International Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry.

M.A. GRADUATES

Duggins, Angela (2022, Spring). Where Are They Now? [Featured]. *Illuminated*. East Tennessee State University.

https://issuu.com/easttnstate/docs/illuminated_spring_2022_issuu/s/15620726

Duff, Megan (2021). Women of Eastern Kentucky [Grant Award]. Kentucky Foundation of Women.

https://www.kfw.org/portfolio_page/mduff/

THANK YOU, LAUGHTON MESSMER & DONNA PAULSEN

Hard work and steady commitment by **Laughton Messmer** and **Donna Paulsen**, co-directors of the ETSU Speech and Debate Team, resulted in numerous accomplishments in 2021-2022.

In addition to recruiting new students (e.g., Kristina Taylor, Emily Greene, Emmanuelle Bixby), the team attended two prominent tournaments: the Steve Hunt Classic and the District VI Fall Qualifying Tournament at The University of Alabama.

Under the leadership of Laughton and Donna, the team brought home a dozen wins, including:

Emily Green

Prose, 3rd Place, District VI Fall Qualifying Tournament

Prose, 4th Place, Steve Hunt Classic

Kristina Taylor

Top Novice, Steve Hunt Classic

Prose, 3rd Place, Steve Hunt Classic

Prose, 5th Place, Steve Hunt Classic

Congratulations to Laughton, Donna, and the fabulous members of the Speech and Debate Team.

Funding Opportunities



ETSU Internal Funding

Overview

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php



ETSU Elevates (team-based service grant)

General Information

<https://www.etsu.edu/etsuelevates/>



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

<https://www.etsu.edu/provost/instructional-grants.php>



ETSU PGIA

General Information

<https://www.etsu.edu/provost/grant-in-aid.php>



ETSU Travel Award for Arts & Sciences Faculty

General Information

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#TAASF



ETSU Student Opportunities

ETSU Research Discovery Program

https://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/discovery.php

ETSU Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Grant

https://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.php#Collaborative

ETSU Undergraduate Travel Grants (Undergraduate)

https://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/travel.php