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DEPARTMENT *of* COMMUNICATION  
*and* PERFORMANCE

College of Arts & Sciences

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Spotlight on Scholarship:  
AY 2015-2016 Report**

**Prepared by**

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**Presented to**

Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair

&

The Communication & Performance Faculty  
September 21, 2016



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September 22, 2016

Friends & colleagues—

Below, you'll find several of our AY 2015-2016 accomplishments in the Department of Communication & Performance. There are so many, in fact, that I'm only able to feature a few.

### On & off campus

Throughout this report, you'll quickly notice all the work being done to reach numerous communities. For example, both Delanna Reed and Joseph Sobol took major storytelling projects from page-to-stage. And under the direction of Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship, the ETSU Forensics & Debate Team participated at major regional tournaments.

Nearby communities benefited from your expertise too. Case in point, Melissa Shafer's scenic designs were on display at the Barter Theatre during the May/June production of *Charlotte's Web*. Then in late August-early September, Pat Cronin again took his talents to the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, NC.

Once more, you generously served the campus community. Wesley Buerkle continued his vital communication education work; he hosted Dr. Steve Vrooman, who spoke on incorporating oral communication into the curriculum. K.C. Gott facilitated a special lunch break series for the ETSU Women's Resource Center, and Amber Kinser and I presented research at the ETSU Women's Studies' "Women on Wednesdays."

### Awards & honors

Nearly a year ago, we received the good news that Melissa Shafer was the recipient of the Tennessee Theatre Association's Distinguished Service Award 2015. But the awards and honors kept coming.

Andrew Hermann was the winner of the 2015 Fred E.H. Schroeder Paper Award from the Midwest Popular Culture Association-Midwest American Culture Association. More, one of our newest faculty members Melissa Nipper received our departmental Outstanding Graduate Research Award. Of course, let's not forget that Wesley Buerkle earned the 2016 *Chair's Award*.

### Publishing & performing

Andrew, Herb, and Delbert published books in AY 15-16. Additionally, as typical of our highly productive faculty, we had multiple essays, chapters, and peer reviewed articles published or forthcoming. Keep reading to learn about select publications and presentations.

**Advising & mentoring**

As busy as you are, you still made time to advise our student-scholars. Consider that for the 2016 *Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium*, we had 12 majors/minors present. On top of that, we were represented aptly by Melissa Nipper at the *Appalachian Student Research Forum*.

Plus, for the first time, our department was represented at the 2016 *National Conference on Undergraduate Research* in Asheville, NC. There, honors student and recent graduate Jamie Stewart presented her award-winning thesis research on introversion/extroversion and willingness to communicate.

In the end, AY 15-16 reflected our commitment at all levels to scholarly and creative activities.

Gratefully,

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

*Thank You, K.C. Gott & Lori Ann Manis. As department webmaster K.C. updated our website, providing information about faculty scholarship. 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.**

Joseph Sobol is currently enjoying his Non-Instructional Assignment (2016-2017). Herb Parker will begin his in January (Spring 2017).

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, W. (2016). Incorporating oral communication into the curriculum. ETSU Instructional Development Grant.

**Melissa Nipper**

Nipper, M. (2015-2016). Divergent discourse: A case study analyzing the effects of campus communication about sexual assault. East Tennessee State University School of Graduate Studies and ETSU Graduate Research Council Grant.

**Delanna Reed**

Reed, D. (2016). Railroad stories: Oral history project about the Clinchfield and East Tennessee & North Carolina Railroads. The National Storytelling Network Grant.

~ 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](http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.aspx)

✚ **ETSU PGIA**

**General Information**

[http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding\\_opps/internal.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/funding_opps/internal.aspx)

 **ETSU Travel Award for Arts & Sciences Faculty**

**General Information**

[http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/documents/TAASF\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.etsu.edu/research/orspa/documents/TAASF_Guidelines.pdf)

 **ETSU Student Opportunities**

**ETSU Research Grant Awards (Graduate)**

<https://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/researchgrants.php>

**ETSU Undergraduate Travel Grants (Undergraduate)**

[http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug\\_research/funding/travel.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/travel.aspx)

**ETSU Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (Funding)**

[http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug\\_research/funding/default.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/default.aspx)

**ETSU Appalachian Student Research Forum (Graduates & Undergraduates)**

<http://www.etsu.edu/studentresearch/>

**ETSU Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium (Oral Presentations & Performances)**

[http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug\\_research/publicize/symposium\\_form.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/publicize/symposium_form.aspx)

*Keep in mind: Many of these internal grants have fast-approaching deadlines (Check the URLs above). And remember that some grant committees award funding twice/AY.*

*Check with me if you're interested in applying. I may know a faculty-mentor who could advise you.*



## Selected academic publications, presentations, & performances

### Karen Brewster

Brewster, K. (2016, Winter). Beyond acting: Find the Theatre career that's right for you. *Southern Theatre Magazine*.

Brewster, K. (2016, Forthcoming). Book Review [*Theatrical makeup, basic application techniques*]. *TD&T*.

### Wesley Buerkle

Buerkle, C. W., & Gerhart, C. (In press). Answer me these questions three: Using online training to improve students' oral source citations. *Communication Teacher*.

Buerkle, C. W. (2016), Just along for the ride?: A father-to-be searching for his role. *Essential Breakthroughs: Conversations about Men, Mothers, and Mothering* (pp. 179-191). In Fiona Green and Gary Pelletier (Eds.), Toronto, Canada: Demeter Press.

*Wesley Buerkle's work is popping up on YouTube. For example, here's an interview he did about gender-neutral pronouns: [http://youtu.be/6vgt4tgsJ\\_M](http://youtu.be/6vgt4tgsJ_M)*

*Oh...Then there's this one with **over 7 million views**...*

*It's a brief video he put together for his 2016 ETSU Civility Week talk: "Sexually Aggressive Men and the Women Who Like Them."*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OP35WHm47-U>*

**Pat Cronin**

Cronin, P. (2015). [Director]. *Rent*. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

*What a thrilling year for Pat Cronin! In addition to directing the sold-out run of “Rent,” he returned to the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, NC. This time around, he played Grandpa in “You Can't Take It With You!” There was even a [nice write-up in the “Asheville Citizen-Times.”](#)*

*Perhaps more impressive! Pat and Karen Brewster worked together to help **12** ETSU students get paying jobs at the Parkway Playhouse! What an example of how our fruitful collaborations benefit our students and communities.*

**Kelly A. Dorgan**

Duvall, K.L., Dorgan, K.A., & Hutson, S.P. (2016). Revisiting Appalachia, revisiting self. In William Schumann & Rebecca Fletcher (Eds). *Revisiting Appalachia*. Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press.

Dorgan, K.A. (November 17, 2015). Cervical cancer screening in Appalachia. Presented at the 2015 ETSU Cancer and Culture Seminar; East Tennessee State University, College of Public Health, Johnson City, TN.

Dorgan, K.A. (December 2, 2015). “I’d be telling...”: Women’s stories about well/illness in their communities, families, and bodies. Presented at Women on Wednesday; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

<http://www.johnsoncitypress.com/Education/2015/12/02/ETSU-s-Women-on-Wednesdays-wraps-up-2015-series-with-talk.html>

**Bobby Funk**

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

[http://www.etsu.edu/news/2016/03\\_mar/pictures/thoreauNR.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/news/2016/03_mar/pictures/thoreauNR.aspx)

Funk, B. (2016, January). [Workshop]. It's not what you say, it's how you say it. Presented at the State of Tennessee Thespian Conference, Thescon 2016; Murfreesboro, TN.

*This past year, Bobby Funk collaborated with other ETSU faculty & staff on stage and film.*

*As Director of "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," he worked with a range of professionals, including Kate Handzlik (Stage Manager), Melissa Shafer (Lighting Design and Technical Direction), Delbert Hall & Grace Arrowood (Scenic Design), Krista Guffey (Guest Costume Designer), and William Cate (Box Office/House Management).*

*Over Winter 2016, both Bobby and Pat Cronin acted in the independent film "Iron Mountain." What a year!*

**K.C. Gott**

Gott, K.C. (2016, June 21). [Facilitator]. Goals with soul. Presented at the ETSU Women's Personal Enrichment Lunch Break Series; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

**Cara Harker**

Harker, C. (2016, February). [Director]. 2016 Dance showcase. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

**Delbert Hall**

Hall, D. (2015, October 1). [Panelist]. Celebration of ETSU authors. Presented at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Hall, D. (2016, April 15). Self-publishing: You can do it. Presented at the ETSU Tables of Content, Sherrod Library; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Hall, Delbert, and Sickels, B. (2016). *The theatre riggers' handbook*. Johnson City, TN: Spring Knoll Press.

**Andrew Herrmann**

Herrmann, A. F. (2016). The ghostwriter writes no more: Narrative logo therapy and the mystery of my namesake. *Qualitative Inquiry*.

<http://qix.sagepub.com/content/early/2016/01/07/1077800415622504.full.pdf>

Herbig, A. & Herrmann, A. F. (2016). Polymediated narrative: The case of the *Supernatural* episode "Fan Fiction." *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 1–18.

Herrmann, A. F. (2016). On being a homeless work of fiction: Narrative quests and questions. *International Review of Qualitative Research*, 9, 23-49.

Herrmann, A. F. (2017). Hegemony. In C. Scott & L. Lewis (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Organizational Communication*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons.

Herrmann, A. F. & Herbig, A. (Eds.). (2016). *Communication perspectives on popular culture*. Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498523929/Communication-Perspectives-on-Popular-Culture>

**Melissa Nipper**

Nipper, M. (2016, April). Divergent discourse: A case study analyzing the effects of campus communication about sexual assault. [Invited Speaker]. Presented to the ETSU Sexual Misconduct Leadership Team; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Nipper, M. (2016, April). Divergent discourse: A case study analyzing the effects of campus communication about sexual assault; Presented at the 2016 Appalachian Student Research Forum; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

*So many of our faculty and staff are reaching out to communities, on and off campus.*

*Take Melissa Nipper's thesis research on campus communication about sexual assault, for example. Not only has she presented to several campus audiences, including the ETSU Sexual Misconduct Team, but she submitted her work to the Southern States Communication Association and is preparing to publish.*

*Then there's K.C. Gott. Drawing on her 2015 Tara Mohr's Playing Big facilitator training, HerStory Coaching, and M.A. in Professional Communication, she facilitated a special goal-setting session for an ETSU Women's Resource Center lunch series last spring.*

**Amber E. Kinser**

Kinser, A.E. (2016). Fixing food to fix families: Feeding risk discourse and the family meal. *Women's Studies in Communication*. doi.org/10.1080/07491409.2016.1207001

Kinser, A.E and Denker, K.J. (2016). Feeding without apology: Maternal navigations of distal discourses in family meal labor. In F. Pasche Guinard and T.M. Cassidy (Eds.) *Mothers and food: Negotiating foodways from maternal perspectives*. Bradford, ON: Demeter Press.

**Herb Parker**

Parker, H. (2015, October). [Workshop]. Outrageous monologues! Presented at Tennessee Theatre Association Conference; Maryville College, Maryville, TN.

Parker, H. (2015, October). [Director]. *Race*. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Parker, H. (2016). *A monologue is an outrageous situation! How to survive the 60-second audition*. NY, NY: Focal Press.

**Delanna Reed**

Reed, D. (2016, March 2). [Writer & Director]. A round peg in a square hole: Lesbian teachers fitting in. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

*Speaking of reaching out to communities ...*

*Herb Parker's interview appeared in the April '16 online edition of "Backstage," helping actors determine if an audition monologue is the right fit!*  
<http://www.backstage.com/advice-for-actors/inside-job/how-determine-if-audition-monologue-right-you/>

*Delbert Hall traveled in and out of state, offering full-day rigging workshops.*

&

*Delanna Reed partnered with ETSU Women's Studies for their "Queer in Appalachia" series. More, she and Joseph Sobol strive to provide a forum for storytellers, such as the "Johnson City Regeneration Story Slam" held each fall and spring. Keep an eye out for Delanna's announcements.*

**Melissa Shafer**

Shafer, M. (2016). [Set Designer]. *Charlotte's web*. Barter Theatre; Abingdon, VA.  
<http://bartertheatre.com/shows/charlottes-web/201602041400452560>

**Joseph Sobol**

Sobol, J. (2016, March, 26-27). [Director]. Jack and the least gal. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Sobol, J. (2016, April 28-29). [Director]. Dispatches from the other kingdom: The Cancer Stories Project. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

*A special note of recognition goes to Laughton Messmer & Erin Blankenship, Co-Directors of the ETSU Forensics and Debate Team. For years, they have labored to grow a competitive and highly regarded program.*

*Now the Wins are piling up!*

*In AY 15-16 alone, the ETSU Forensics and Debate Team took home 12 awards, including multiple 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins.*

*As Co-Directors, Erin and Laughton give many of their evenings and weekends to coach, mentor, and transport team members. So, applause, applause to the invaluable contributions of our Co-Directors!!!*