Graduate Slate Training

The Graduate Slate training sessions will be held for the entire month of June. To register for a session, go to https://gradschool.siu.edu/slatetraining.php (The training will be conducted virtually with a max capacity of 3, to provide the best guidance for participants).

Congratulations to Ms. Crystal Harris (Graduate School Specialist, Assistantship and Contract Office) on being chosen by the Graduate and Professional Student Council Executive Board as the recipient for the 2020 GPSC Distinguished and Outstanding Service Award. This Award is to recognize and honor those who make contributions and go beyond expectations in providing assistance to graduate students at SIUC.
Over 20 years ago, the Communication Studies Department (formerly Speech Communication) opened The Speaker’s Center, a resource for students in the introductory public speaking course (CMST 101). The Center aimed to provide assistance outside of the classroom for students to work on their public speaking skills. The Center had been operated by a funded graduate assistant until Fall of 2016, when budget cuts meant that the Center had to close. However, one graduate student vowed to make sure that this important student resource stayed open.

Dianah McGreehan, a PhD student in Communication Studies, took it upon herself to organize a response that would allow the center to continue as a valuable resource for students. By constructing a schedule for volunteers, McGreehan marshaled master’s and PhD students in the department of Communication Studies to begin running the Speaker’s Center out of a small, unused office on the second floor of the Communications Building.

Over the past four years, the Speaker’s Center has been operated by graduate student volunteers, mobilized through McGreehan’s tireless coordination. The center has continued as a resource for students taking CMST 101 that need additional one-on-one attention outside of the classroom. With the return of funding to the position of Speaker’s Center coordinator, it is McGreehan’s hope that “the services and resources of the Speaker’s Center gain visibility and interest from instructors across campus.” Indeed, while the Speaker’s Center has primarily acted as a resource for students in CMST 101, the center has expanded to all Communication Studies majors, with the goal of funding and space to eventually serve any student who is looking to improve a speech they are working on for a class at SIU. Beginning this semester, the Student Speaker’s Center returned to being operated as a part of a graduate assistantship.

Master’s student Kenny Beeker works in the center as a part-time graduate assistant, advancing the center’s aim of helping students in their speech-making both inside and outside of coursework. In the wake of the COVID-19 changes, Beeker is determined to provide online assistance to students in CMST 101.
Communication Studies Graduate Student on Memorialization, Quilting, and Activism

Alex Davenport (SIUC PhD student) will be presenting his dissertation research on the activist Judy Bonds at Tennessee Tech University, and James Madison University this March. Davenport, a PhD student in the department of Communication Studies, has conducted his research alongside the environmental activists at Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW), a group dedicated to protesting the expansion of mountaintop removal mining across the Appalachian region. Davenport's research explores the ways that activist communities memorialize those who have passed away. Bonds, the director of CRMW, passed away in 2011, and Davenport aims to conduct his research in concert with CRMW to memorialize her activist work.

Davenport's research further explores the connection between memorializing and material production through his process of creating a memorial quilt in memory of Bonds. Quilting has a long tradition within Appalachian families, and in protest movements throughout United States history. Davenport’s memorial quilt is constructed through quilt squares fabricated by those who also knew and worked with Bonds, and as such, brings together a multitude of styles, textures, and memories. Davenport’s research was originally scheduled to be on display at SIU Carbondale in late April as a part of his show, Threading: A Vibrant Installation of Travel and Memorial, debuting in the Marion Kleinau Theatre. Theatre staff is currently exploring other options for making the quilt—and the show—available to the public.

Shannan Mason Winning a Prestigious American Philosophical Society Fellowship

Shannan Mason (SIU Co-op PhD, History) has won a prestigious American Philosophical Society fellowship to research the papers of John Bartram, an 18th-century “merchant of nature” who discovered and then sold botanical specimens around the world. Bartram cofounded the American Philosophical Society with Ben Franklin.

Congratulations, Shannan!
NSF Funding Opportunities
(Content provided by the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research)

Multimodal Sensor Systems for Precision Health Enabled by Data Harnessing, Artificial Intelligence, and Learning (SenSE)

Full Proposal Deadline: June 8, 2020

Program Guidelines: NSF 20-556

The National Science Foundation (NSF) through its Divisions of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems (ECCS); Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems (CBET); CWS, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI); Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS); and Mathematical Sciences (DMS) announces a solicitation on Multimodal Sensor Systems for Precision Health enabled by Data Harnessing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Learning. Next-generation multimodal sensor...

This is an NSF Upcoming Due Dates item.

Panel Study of Income Dynamics Competition (PSID)

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 8, 2020

Program Guidelines: NSF 20-573

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is a longitudinal survey of a nationally representative sample of U.S. families begun in 1968. The PSID has collected 41 waves of data on the same families and their descendants as of 2019.

The PSID collects data on a wide range of economic, social, demographic, geospatial, and health factors that affect the well-being of American families. The PSID has consistently obtained wave-to-wave re-interview response rates of more than 90%. Data are...

This is an NSF Upcoming Due Dates item.

Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)

Full Proposal Deadline: June 10, 2020

Partnerships in Geoscience Education (PAGE)

Program Guidelines: NSF 18-546

The Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) provides awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote high quality science (including sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, statistics, and other social and behavioral sciences as well as natural sciences), technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, research, and outreach. Support is available to TCUP-eligible institutions (see ...

This is an NSF Upcoming Due Dates item.
**Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12)**

Available Formats:

Document Number: nsf20572

This is an NSF Program Announcements and Information item.

**Spectrum Innovation Initiative: National Center for Wireless Spectrum Research (SII-Center)**

Full Proposal Deadline Date: June 12, 2020
SII-Center Planning Grant Proposals (Submission of an SII-Center Planning Grant Proposal is not required to submit an SII-Center Proposal)

Program Guidelines: NSF 20-557

The worldwide growth of wireless communication, navigation, and telemetry has provided immense societal benefits including mobile broadband data, Internet of Things (IoT), mobile healthcare, and intelligent transportation systems. These and other applications including 5G and beyond wireless systems call for innovations that can circumvent the challenges of radio spectrum scarcity and interference and foster the growth of ubiquitous, high speed, low latency connectivity. Commercial ...

This is an NSF Upcoming Due Dates item.

**Joint DMS/NIGMS Initiative to Support Research at the Interface of the Biological and Mathematical Sciences (DMS/NIGMS)**

Available Formats:

Document Number: nsf20575

This is an NSF Program Announcements and Information item.

**Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program (IUCRC)**

Available Formats:

Document Number: nsf20570

This is an NSF Program Announcements and Information item.
MCMA 552.952: Seminar in the History and Theory of Media Arts

History, Theory, and Criticism of Film and Television Animation
Special Topic: “The Animation of America: Dr. Seuss, The Simpsons, and Pixar”

Summer 2020 – 3 credits – Online Course

Instructor: Walter Metz

This course will investigate the short and feature films of Pixar Animation Studios. It is my hypothesis that Pixar’s cultural products, both intellectually stimulating and popular, represent an apotheosis of American cinema, a middle ground in the culture wars between effete art cinema and uninteresting action movies. I will use the frameworks of the children’s books of Dr. Seuss and the underground comic turned financial juggernaut, The Simpsons as reading frames for Pixar films. The course methods will be wide-ranging and truly interdisciplinary, spanning film, literary, and television studies; American and global studies; and children’s literature and adult experimental animation.

If you have any questions, or would like a draft of the syllabus, please e-mail me at:

wmetz@siu.edu