



THE COMMUNICATOR

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BEHIND THE SCENES: WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

By: Jen Baudendistel & Erika Brees

Did you know professors in the Speech Communication department have a lot more going on in their professional careers other than just lecturing and handing out assignments? The only time students see their professors hard at work is when they are standing right in front of us in class, lecturing and spreading their wisdom to younger generations. Here is a look into the professional lives of a few professors and projects they have been working on.

Professor Jocelyn DeGroot Brown, has had many recent accomplishments. One of her most exciting being a new book she wrote with a co-author, *Blogging as a Means of Grieving*. It was accepted and will be published next year. *Blogging as a Means of Grieving*, is focused on grief-related blogs and their implications for grieving.

Most of you know Dr. Blankson as the chair of the Speech Communication department, but now there is another job he has taken on. Recently, Dr. Blankson was named the Special Advisor to the Dean on International and Diversity Initiatives. This year at a conference, Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) received a certificate of recognition for the college and SIUE's diversity plan.

Our very own Dr. Laura Perkins has retired from teaching Speech Communication here at SIUE. To fulfill her dreams, Dr. Perkins plans to dedicate her newly acquired free time to becoming a playwright with her daughter, an actress.

Dr. Sorin Nastasia, Public Relations Assistant Professor, has also had several recent accomplishments in his career. One



of which is the nomination his dissertation received by the faculty of the Communication Program at the University of North Dakota (the university where he received his Ph.D.) for the Graduate

School Distinguished Dissertation Award. "Only one dissertation is nominated per department each year, which means the faculty considered that I had the best dissertation among all the graduate students who graduated in 2009-2010," said Nastasia.

Our professors are very busy this semester and not with just educating us. Take the time to see what your professors or colleagues are doing in their spare time. Taking a deeper look at our professor's initiatives outside of the classroom will provide students with new insight into other exciting opportunities in the speech communication field.

Find the words:

Communication Public Relations Speech Undergraduate Organizational Blankson

Sorin Perkins Jocelyn

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