

Behind the Scenes: What You Didn't Know About Your Professor

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, 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 Southern Illinois University (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 had received by the faculty of the Communication Program at the University of North Dakota (the university where I did my Ph.D.) for the Graduate School Distinguished Dissertation Award. Only one dissertation is nominated per department each year. In order to have been nominated for this award, Dr. Nastasia had to have had the best dissertation among all the graduate students who graduated in 2009-2010.

Our professors are very busy this semester and not with just educating us. 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.

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