



Speak Out!

Speech Communication Department Semester Newsletter

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Table of Contents

• Alumni News	1
• Chairs Note	2
• Grad News	3
• Org. Comm	4
• PR News	5
• Interpersonal	6
• PRSSA	7
• Job & Internship Opportunities	8
• Upcoming Events	9

Department Information

Office Location:
Alumni Hall 3108

Telephone Number:
618-650-3090

Hours:
Mon.-Fri.
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

Connect to Alumni Through Facebook

By: Sarah Manfucci & Lindy Noel

In recent years, the Speech Communication Department (SPC) has made an effort to increase communication between the department and its alumni. The main forms of communication between alumni and the department have been the SPC website and the use of the department's new Facebook page.

A major drawback to the use of the SPC Department website has been the ability to update SPC alumni contact information. Currently, the department is in the process of creating a page on the website to allow alumni to update their own information. The new SPC website will be available by the end of the year.



"Our goal is to maintain relations and to link new students with old students," stated Dr. Sofia Zamanou-Erickson, an associate professor in the Speech Communication department.

Associate Professor Duff Wrobbel suggested the idea of a Facebook page to the faculty because it seemed ludicrous to be a communications department and not have one. The staff chose Facebook because it is an efficient communications tool for linking students, graduates and current faculty. Wrobbel also said it was chosen because it does not require on-going maintenance since the users maintain it themselves.

"We haven't had [Facebook] long enough to determine if it is being effective, but we have had a decent turnout," said Professor Wrobbel.

Currently, the Facebook page has over 270 members and is growing steadily.

One of the long-term goals of using the Facebook page is to receive feedback from alumni currently in the workforce. The SPC Department wants to know what tools are being used in the workforce in order to change the department curriculum accordingly.

The page is also being used to network, post job opportunities, and publicize events.

"We've had a number of people post jobs for interns," said Professor Wrobbel. "Students are also using it to find Ph.D. programs through our alumni."

One success story was an event publicized on Facebook that drew about 40 SPC alumni to a gathering at the Villa Maria Winery in Collinsville, where they networked with faculty and other graduates in addition to updating their personal and career information. The event was so successful that Dr. Erickson indicated it would continue on a bi-annual basis.

Once the website changes have been completed, alumni will have a more convenient way to update their own information and better access to upcoming events that the department hopes will provide interesting opportunities for SPC Department alumni to reconnect.

Make the Connection!

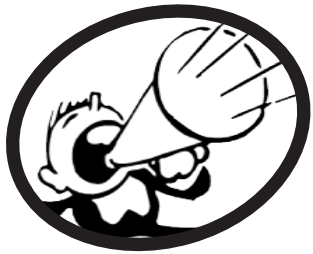
Department Website:

<http://www.siu.edu/artsandsciences/spc>

To find us on Facebook search:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville,
Speech Communication Department

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Speak Out!

Department of Speech Communication
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1772
Phone: 618-650-3631
Fax: 618-650-2038

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