

TBD: TO BE DISCOVERED

A Newsletter from the Department of Communication and Media Studies

Celebrating Our Graduates

Page Two

PRSSA Guest Speaker

Page Three

Campus Controversies

Page Three

End of the Year Celebration

By Braden Jones

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Journalism Department joined together for an end-of-the-year celebration. The party consisted of students from PRSSA, SPJ, The ARKATECH and the Broadcast practicum. This event was put on to celebrate the year's hard work from all of the students involved in these organizations.

SPJ provided hamburgers and hotdogs for the event, and they were grilled and served in the Entergy Center Lobby. Other dishes were brought by students for a potluck-style meal that was delicious. The students all had their meals and then laughed and joked about experiences from the semester.

Once the meals were finished, the students who attended stayed and played games and just relaxed. This made for a great way to release some of the stress of the upcoming work that comes with the final days of the semester. This get-together was a very successful event that provided students with fun and food, two of college kids' most sought-after items.



To Our Graduates

By Dr. David Eshelman, department head and professor of communication

Dear graduates,

As the semester winds down, so do your academic careers---at least, for the moment. I hope to congratulate each of you individually. Please take some time to bask in your accomplishments. In the theatre, I often tell student actors to take a moment to enjoy the tremendous feeling of being on stage in front of an audience--the tremendous feeling of fulfilling the tasks which they have worked so hard to accomplish. I hope that your graduation provides you such moments of joy and delight.

I send with you my best wishes and the best wishes of this department. Please remember this university---and especially Communication and Media Studies---as you move onto your successes. I know you will be successful. Again, congratulations!

Graduate Highlights

Jacquelynn LaBeff

Who are you?

Driven, empowered, and passionate about every endeavor that I've taken I am an example of hard work paying off.

Where are you heading?

I'm headed towards a world of opportunity-- my experiences at Tech have allowed me to rest assured that my future is bright regardless.

What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of my strength and tenacity-- it has successfully gotten me this far.

Kyndal Atkinson

Who are you?

My name is Kyndal Atkinson and I will be graduating with my degree in secondary speech education.

Where are you heading?

After graduation I will be heading back home to Northwest Arkansas to work as a substitute until I move to Kansas City to work for City Year Americorps.

What are you most proud of?

I am very proud that I have graduated college as my college career has not been an easy one. It has taken me six years to get my degree and, in those ups and downs I had to learn a lot about myself, but I am truly grateful for the professors at tech for helping me in and outside the classroom.



SPJ Industry Tour

By Elli White

On Nov. 10, ATU's Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) enjoyed the opportunity to go on an industry tour. This outing gave students the opportunity to tour the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, attend our state's chapter SPJ meeting, and explore the KARK channel four studio, along with a live viewing of their noon show. To top the day off, the state SPJ chapter treated students and paid for their lunch. This tour was very eye opening for many of the students who attended, highlighting the many future opportunities for journalism in the future.



Campus Controversies

The ATU Debate and Forensics team is planning on beginning a new program in conjunction with the broadcast program titled "Campus Controversies". Debate team members will participate in a shortened version of team IPDA debate focused on topics relevant to the ATU campus community. These debates will be recorded live. If you would like to submit a topic for debate, please reach out to faculty advisor Dr. Gabriel Adkins at gadkins@atu.edu.



PRSSA hosted guest speaker Melissa Williams on Nov. 8. Williams is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University and is a two-time Emmy awarded journalist. Williams shared her student experience. She also offered professional tips regarding traveling for work, going after stories, and social media do's and don'ts. Williams currently serves as the senior communications manager of Tyson Foods.