

**Special Edition: “Student Focused & Faculty Supported”**

**Inside the Special Edition:**

Soaring Above Eagles	1
And The Award Goes To	2
Inside Look	2
Guiding Lights	3
Staff Spotlight & Creative Scholarship	4
Feature Story: Sterin Visits TSU	5
Faculty Highlights	6
Communicate With Us! & Faculty Supports BEEM	7

**Soaring Above Eagles**

The Department does an ardent and excellent job of preparing all Communication students for academic achievement. Spring 2016 Commencement was a significant opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of all TSU students and especially our own graduates.

Mass Comm students Kimarcus Thomas graduated Magna Cum Laude. Ashley Parmer graduated with a 4.0, Summa Cum Laude and received an award at graduation for maintaining a 4.0. Parmer was also editor of The Meter. Chasity Gowdy was the recipient of the 2016 National Association of Television Program Executives student fellowship.

These students' achievements are worthy of recognition and the faculty members that have helped them as well. Thomas, Parmer and Gowdy are sure to reach the pinnacle of success in their future careers and make an indelible impact on the world. We congratulate these phenomenal students as they commence to SOAR above where eagles fly.



Chasity Gowdy, Dr. Tameka Winston & Ashley Parmer



Dr. Tameka Winston & Kimarcus Thomas



Dr. Tameka Winston & Dr. Terry Likes

**Faculty Kudos!**

Department Chair, Dr. Terry Likes (pictured above) won 13 awards during the 2015-2016 Academic year for his freelance documentary work as a contributor to the Tennessee Radio Network: 7 from the Tennessee Associated Press, 3 from the National Broadcasting Society, 1 from the Broadcast Education Association (national award) and 1 from the BEA (regional award) and 1 regional Edward R. Murrow award from the Radio/TV Digital News Association.

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## And The Award Goes To...

Tennessee State University students won five radio and television news and sports awards in the 2015-2016 Tennessee Associated Press student contest. The awards were presented Saturday April 9 at the First Amendment Center in Nashville. These TSU students won in their respective categories:

**2<sup>nd</sup> place - Best Online Sports Coverage-Program- Cedric Beene, Micah Kennedy, Josh Walden, Paige Jefferson;**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place - Best Inline Sports Program- Kierra Ewah-Washington**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place - Best Radio Specialized Topic Reporting- Melody Scales;**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place - Best Radio Investigative In-Depth Reporting- Ryan Parham, Tierra Kimball, Marvel Wade;**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place - Best Investigative In-Depth Reporting- J. Michaux;**

Also, the 2016 awards presentation for the best journalism in broadcast, print and online were presented at the Southeast Journalism Conference, hosted by Austin Peay State University of Clarksville, TN. SEJC includes its "Best of the South" contest and Tennessee State University awards included the individual categories of:

**2nd Place Best Radio Hard News Reporter - Ashley Parmer**

**10th Place Best Sports Writer - Todd Dean**

**10th Place Best Arts & Entertainment Writer - Miranda Brown**

Some of our Communications faculty were judges:

Booras, Tommy - BEA judge for 2016 BEA Festival of the Arts, Dec 2015-Feb 2016.

Lafin, Sean - SEJC 2016 judge for student contest

Morris, Sheryl - TSU CLA Research Forum for the Arts April 2016.

## Inside Look: Theatre, Forensics and Communication Studies

In **Theatre** Dr. Lawrence James - Directed students (2) for State of Tennessee Qualifying Auditions for SETC (Southeastern Theatre Conference) State Auditions at Tennessee Theatre Assn Conference, October 2015, Maryville, TN. One student qualifies for regional/national SETC Auditions.

Lawrence James - Directed student (1) for SETC Regional/National

Auditions at SETC Conference, March, 2016; Greensboro, N.C.; Student offered summer internship opportunity in Missouri for summer 2016.

-Also, in **Theatre** Dr. Peter Fields worked with the Music Department and adjunct professor and director, William Crimm, to produce the spring main play, West Side Story.

-The **Forensics** team and Coach JD Smith ended this season with their Awards Banquet and also brought on board by Vice-President Hardy, Ms. Shante Telfer will help lead the team in the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

**Communication Studies** - Professor Celeste Stein, has two NCA submissions awaiting approval to present. Stein also spoke at the TSU Women of Legend Awards Banquet.



**Think, Work,  
Serve**



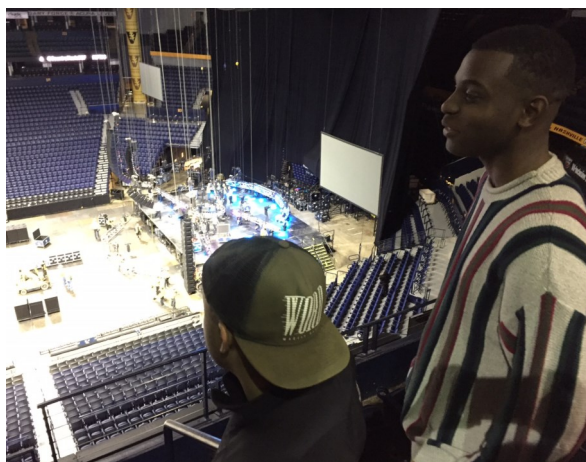
## Department Spotlight: "Guiding Lights"

Professor Sheryl Morris is a guiding light for the students in her Sports Production class. They recently toured Bridgestone Arena to review their production setup for their coverage of the Nashville Predators professional hockey team. Unfortunately the Predators were out of town preparing for the Stanley Cup Playoffs but the students learned about the facilities, crew, setup

and operation of a LIVE broadcast of a sports production and also the TV production inside the arena for the fans. Our students also received good advice from Pat Abell who is the Director of Technical Operations for Bridgestone Arena. He told them what they can expect when job searching and what skills will be necessary to compete in today's market.



Students at Bridgestone Arena



## Students at News Channel 5

Another guiding light in our department, Professor Celeste Stein took students from the Comm Department to visit News Channel 5. Producer Tuwanda Coleman gave the tour. They met with Anchors Vicki Yates, Lelan Statom, and Merrill Rose.



Students with Tuwanda Coleman



Stein, Merrill Rose & Students



Coleman, Yates & Stein



Professor Stein & Lelan Statom

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## Staff Spotlight: Sean Laflin

### *TSU Staff Member Sings Back-Up for Barry Manilow with Local Choir*

Tennessee State University Television Operations Manager Sean Laflin was recently honored to sing on stage with music icon Barry Manilow. Laflin is part of the group, "Nashville In Harmony," which was a select group that joined Manilow for his "One Last Time" concert tour show in Nashville. The concert packed Bridgestone Arena, April 28, 2016. All 36 members of Nashville In Harmony learned music and choreography to Manilow's final three numbers for the show. The songs were "I Write The Songs," "Copa Cobana" and "It's A Miracle."

Nashville In Harmony is a 140-member choir that "uses music to build community and create social change." Their outreach programs have included singing for Nashville's Mayoral Inauguration, Nashville's Jewish Temple Shabat Service and a memorial service for Nashville Civil Rights Pioneer Julian Bond. Laflin will also be part of the choir for their main summer stage show at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in downtown Nashville June 26, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Laflin has worked at TSU since 2009 as a staff member and instructor in the Department of Communications and serves as the TV Operations Manager.



**Professor Brian Day**

## Day Embraces Creative Scholarship

Brian Day has two major projects nearing completion. One film, a documentary about race relations in a small Southern town, has been picked up for global educational distribution through Alexandria Street Press/Filmmakers Library.

The other globally distributed film, Sarah Cecelia is a 40-minute documentary about parental child abduction. Day is in the final stages of color correction and sound mixing. This film premiered in London, England and was funded by PACT, a non profit organization.



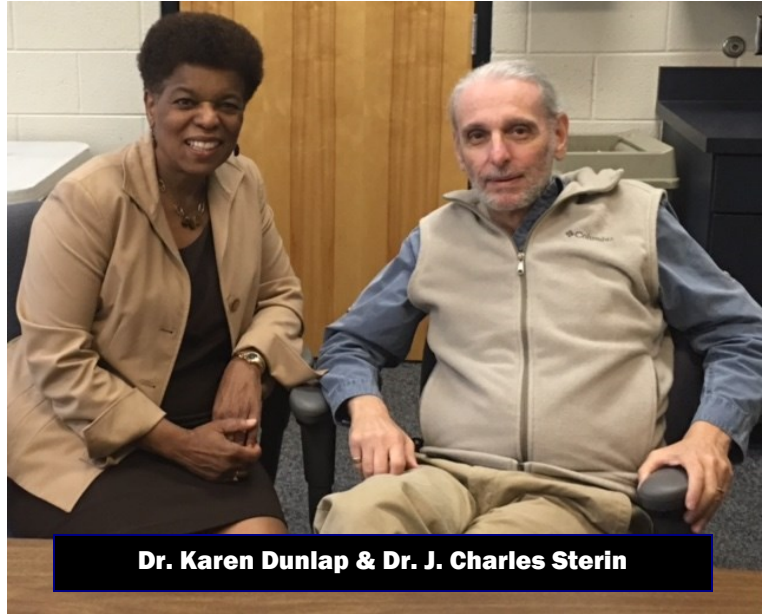
## Feature Story: Filmmaker Dr. J. Charles Sterin Visits TSU

**Dr. Tameka Winston** was chosen to serve as co-author for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of *Mass Media Revolution*. This is an extremely popular textbook through Pearson Publishing. The author of the textbook, Dr. J. Charles Sterin visited Tennessee State University in April to discuss the textbook during an all day session. Sterin also had the opportunity to reconnect with Dr. Karen Dunlap. Sterin produced several projects for Poynter Institute during Dunlap's tenure as President of the institute. The updated textbook will be released in November 2016.

Dr. Sterin is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, investigative television journalist, and screenwriter. Over the course of his 35-year career, Sterin has produced over 60 hours of television documentaries, including episodes of A&E Network's primetime series *Investigative Reports* and *Ancient Mysteries*, and documentary specials aired on PBS. Sterin co-produced a national media project with ten of the world's leading humanist thinkers (including anthropologist Margaret Mead, psychologist Carl Rogers, and anthropologist Ashley Montagu) and was selected by the Poynter Institute to produce its seminal PBS documentary series *NewsLeaders* on the leading figures of American news media.

Sterin is fascinated with the future of media technologies, especially the evolution of the Internet, mass media convergence, and artificial intelligence-based expert systems. He has developed innovative approaches to producing short-form documentary videos in integrated content delivery platforms for "blended" online training and higher education. In 2001, Sterin joined the faculty of the University of Maryland University College—a world leader in web-enhanced and online college programs—where he has applied his interests in the evolution of mass media and media-based blended learning applications to the creation of a number of UMUC's mass communication courses. Through these popular courses, Sterin has introduced thousands of students across the country and around the world to the study of mass media. He developed innovative approaches to connect and communicate with a diverse body of students in multimedia-enhanced face-to-face and online teaching environments, as well as pursuing his work as a documentary filmmaker, screenwriter and author. Prior to retiring in January 2014, Sterin split his time between university teaching, photography, graphics as well as working on projects and commissioned documentaries and commercial

professional activities including, writing, freelance design, creative consulting, contracted video production, television documentaries and media projects.



**Dr. Karen Dunlap & Dr. J. Charles Sterin**



**Feature Story Contributor, Dr. Tameka Winston**

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## Faculty Highlights

### Publications:

Likes, Terry. (2016, April). "Changing of the Guard: The effect of turnover among late-night television talk show hosts." *Journal of Media Education*, BEA, Volume 7, Issue 2, 41-46. <http://en.calameo.com/read/000091789f4503b6749d5>

Likes, Terry. (under review). "News vs. Advertiser: When advertisers pressure news managers about content." *Journal of Electronic News*, Sage.

Johnson, Kimberly. "If Womanist Rhetoricians Could Speak..." *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*. Pearson.

Stein, Celeste. Book chapter: Started working on a book chapter on parental attachment with Benson Fraser, PhD and Stephen Perry, PhD.

### Book Contracts:

Kimberly Johnson has a signed book contract with Lexington Books.

Tameka Winston was chosen to serve as co-author for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of *Mass Media Revolution*.

Morgan Ginther was contacted by TopHat to write a chapter on argumentation and fallacies for a new digital public speaking textbook, which will be published this summer. "Argumentation and Fallacies." *Effective Public Speaking: A Top Hat Interactive Textbook*. Ed. George Griffin. Toronto: Top Hat Monocle Inc., forthcoming summer 2016.

Ginther also submitted a book proposal to the University Press of Mississippi, and they have invited her to submit the completed book manuscript for publication (in their series on Race, Rhetoric, and the Media).

Booras, Tommy elected vice chair of BEA Sports Division (will automatically move up to chair in 2017-2018 and reviewing four chapters of a proposed sports journalism textbook for Oxford Press.

### Conference Presentations:

Likes, Terry. (2016). Lessons Learned: Tips on Creating a Sports Communications Program. Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV and BEA Regional conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Likes, Terry. (2016). Don't Bury the Lead(ership): Preparing Today's Students to Become Tomorrows Producers, Directors and Editors. Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Likes, Terry. (2016). Best Practices for Faculty Audio Production. Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Likes, Terry. (2016). Best Practices for Student Audio Production. Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Likes, Terry. (2016). Whoever Said "You HAVE to See It To Believe It" Should Know: Storytelling Through Audio is the GOAT (Greatest Of All Times)! Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Winston, Tameka, (2016). "Mentoring students of color." Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Winston, Tameka, (2016). "Writing a Program Review." Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Day, Brian, (2016). "The three P's to a successful Media Career." Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV and BEA Regional conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Day, Brian, (2016) – You Don't Just Shoot a Documentary. Broadcast Education Association regional conference, Tuscaloosa, AL and BEA Conference Las Vegas, NV.

Booras, Tommy, (2016) – Creating a relationship with your hometown major league sports teams: Internships, tours, and experiential learning. Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Booras, Tommy presentation at BEA ("Students on Ice: Touring the Nashville Predators In-House Production Facility").

James, Lawrence. Individual Paper submitted for acceptance for 2016 - NCA National Convention. Communication Assessment Division.

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## Communicate With Us!

The TSU Department of Communications, is small enough to know you, big enough to challenge you and diverse enough to stretch you. We've been in the communications education business for many years, not only adapting to, but leading the changes in our remarkable field. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you would like to **inspire, influence, and engage** with our department, campus and our Nashville community. Please submit your information to our Newsletter Editor and faculty member, Ms. Shante' Telfer at [stelfer@tnstate.edu](mailto:stelfer@tnstate.edu).

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## Faculty Supports BEEM

Dr. Tameka Winston participated in the annual BEEM Career Fair at Smithson Craighead Academy on Friday, May 13, 2016. This career fair is designed to give youth early exposure to career options and positive role models. It was the first fair of its kind in Nashville to focus on exposing children as early as kindergarten to business and career possibilities. The BEEM Career Fair exposes elementary school children to entrepreneurs, corporate executives, doctors, dentists, musicians, artists, educators, disc jockeys, journalists, lawyers, ministers, police officers, fire fighters and others and encourages children to reach for the stars and only rest on the moon.

This program has received numerous honors and awards such as Golden Rule awards for community service and education from J.C. Penney, Brookmeade Elementary School awards for outstanding service and excellence, and an award from Tennessee's Governor for service to youth. It also has been recognized as a Metropolitan Nashville School "showcased" program and a Tennessee State Legislative Caucus model youth program.

