Dr. Tim Huffman, Assistant Professor of Communication, delivered the keynote address at our 6th annual undergraduate and graduate student conference. One of his research specialties is social justice communication. Here is an excerpt from his address:

We must communicate to create a just society. We must listen and speak. Turn our bodies toward each other. Make eye contact. Argue. Invite. Organize. Gather. Write. Share. Facilitate. Design. Advocate. We built the world we live in. And every day, we build it anew. Which makes us complicit in the injustices around us. But thankfully, it also means that when we choose to change the way we communicate, we also change the world.

Advisory Board
Ellen Barnidge – Public Health
Tim Huffman – Communication
Kathryn Kuhn – Sociology
Ben Loocker – American Studies
Michelle Lorenzini – Political Science
Katie Monsky – Center for Service & Community Engagement
Annie Rosenkranz – Center for Global Citizenship
Leah Sweetman – Center for Service & Community Engagement
Robert Strikwerda – Political Science / Women’s & Gender Studies
Sabrina Tyuse – Social Work

The Global and Local Justice Initiative is an interdisciplinary, inter-school collaboration that undertakes projects to enhance understanding of conditions and processes that advance or inhibit social justice.

The Global and Local Social Justice Program – Power, Society, Culture – is sponsored by

- American Studies
- Communication
- Political Science
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Women and Gender Studies
The Conference has both oral presentations and posters. Here are some of the graduate student paper presentations.

Mark Benton (Public Policy) elaborates on racial segregation in the St. Louis area.

Whitney Linsenmeyer presents on the perspective of a student during 2014 protests.

Tommy Lucas discusses the student experience of the late 2014 protests.

Cicely Hunter informs her audience on the effects of protests in America historically.
Undergraduate Poster Presentations

Trey Poche (Philosophy, Anthropology) discusses the contemporary precariat with Matt Heskamp (Theology and Philosophy).

Baili Volluz (Political Science) reviews her findings on public opinion and labor unions with Dr. Strikwerda (right).

Selena Montelongo (Psychology and Women’s and Gender Studies), Stacey Banks (Health Management) present findings on urban collaboration among St. Louis schools of differing demographics researched with Peter Marie, Megan McCall, Kelly McEnnerney, Kathleen Monsky, Vitina Pestello, and Justin Vilbig.

Monica Kavanaugh (Public Health - Maternal and Child Health), presented work she did with Jessica Buck on the intersection of trauma and education in Belize City, Belize.

Social justice is not about working in the soup kitchen, but about why you need a soup kitchen. Who is in line? Where is it located? What do these things tell you about oppression and history?

Marilyn S. Mobley, VP for inclusion, diversity, and opportunity, Case Western Reserve University
All Global and Local Social Justice Minors take a service learning course or do an internship. Here is one example:

Kyle Miller is a Public Health and Sociology major getting his Global and Local Social Justice minor. Students in the minor are required to complete 21 hours, seven 3-credit hour courses: one on local and domestic issues, one on global issues, a third course in one of these first two areas, one course in theories of justice, two elective courses, and one service learning or internship course. He met this last requirement this spring while working in the Office of the Mayor of the City of Saint Louis. His Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills were particularly useful in examining vacant properties in the city.

Here are some excerpts from his final journal entry for his internship this spring.

“I cannot express how appreciative I am to begin my career of public service [with this internship]... The Office of the Mayor has demonstrated both the positive and negative aspects of working in local government. The City of St. Louis has so many opportunities for me to address issues about which I am passionate—homelessness, health, substance abuse, and poverty. Due to the fact that local government is closest to the community, they also are most ready to make social change. Oppositely, local governments do not always have the financial or time resources to create change. I believe that this will lead me to some frustration in the future. Still, having completed my internship, it is my intention to apply for a position within local government, specifically within the City of St. Louis, after my graduation from Saint Louis University....

I think the best part of this internship has been my ability to pair it with my internship in the Office of Senator Claire McCaskill. The combination of these two internships has given me a more complete perspective on government. It demonstrated to me that I can have an influence on my community of all levels of government. Throughout the semester, I have also been impressed that I have been able to find ways to combine the internships. For example throughout the semester, I have met with members of the Mayor’s staff while representing the Senator. These opportunities have allowed me to refine what I hope to pursue from a career of public service and potential graduate school, for that I am forever grateful.”