**Julie Hawkins, Assistant Professor**

**Jonathan Kitt, MS Arts Administration**

**Neville Vakharia, Assistant Professor**

**Dr. Andrew Zitcer, Assistant Teaching Professor

Westphal College Department of Arts & Entertainment Enterprise

Social Theory, Politics, and the Arts Conference, University of Ottawa, October 9-11, 2014**

*Parliament Hill, with view of the Peace Tower and Library,
Ottawa, Canada (photo by J. Hawkins)*

The International Conference of Social Theory, Politics and the Arts (STP&A) is an interdisciplinary gathering of researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and students that explores key trends, practices and policy issues affecting the arts around the world. STP&A is the oldest and one of the most influential academic gatherings of researchers and practitioners in the field of arts management and cultural policy. Generally, conference participants are drawn from a broad range of disciplines including, but not limited to, political science, sociology, economics, law, arts management, arts education, art history, museum studies, cultural studies, education, and policy studies. It is affiliated with [the Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society (JAMLS)](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/vjam20%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). The Journal has also been the authoritative resource for the field of arts management and cultural policy for more than 40 years (<http://stpaconference.org/stpa/>).

*Professors Zitcer, Hawkins, and Vakharia with colleagues at the STP&A Conference (photo by S. Goldberg-Miller)*

At the conference, Professors Hawkins, Vakharia, and Zitcer led a presentation on the topic of arts, social inclusion, and accessibility based on their recently-released report, “A Fragile Ecosystem,” (http://www.drexel.edu/~/media/Files/westphal/dept/aadm/ArtsAndCultureReport.ashx) which explores the role of arts and culture in Mantua, Powelton Village, and West Powelton. Arts administration alum Jonathan Kitt shared his master’s thesis research in a presentation exploring, “African American Individual Philanthropy at Large, Mainstream, Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations in New York City.” Professor Zitcer presented his ongoing research of embodied emotion in organizational management and practice in, “Supporting Each Other so Much We Were Colliding: Managing Embodied Emotion in a Philadelphia Dance Company,” and Professor Hawkins shared her thematic analysis of Westphal alum Amy Scheidegger’s advocacy efforts in, “Countering Critique: Expressing the Value of the Arts Through the Artistic Rebuttal Project.”

*Jonathan Kitt presents his master’s thesis research at the STP&A Conference in Ottawa, Canada (photo* by J. Hawkins)

All four presentations have the opportunity to be published in a special conference edition of the Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society. Jonathan Kitt is also eligible for an award presented annually for the best graduate student presentation. Drexel’s attendees extended their professional networks through connections made during the conference, and also had the opportunity to hear from Simon Brault, Director and CEO of the Canada Council for the Arts. Each of the four attendees also met colleagues interested in similar research, opening up avenues for future collaborative efforts.

*Professors Zitcer and Vakharia enjoy poutine, a local delicacy of french fries, cheese curds, and gravy (photo by J. Hawkins)*