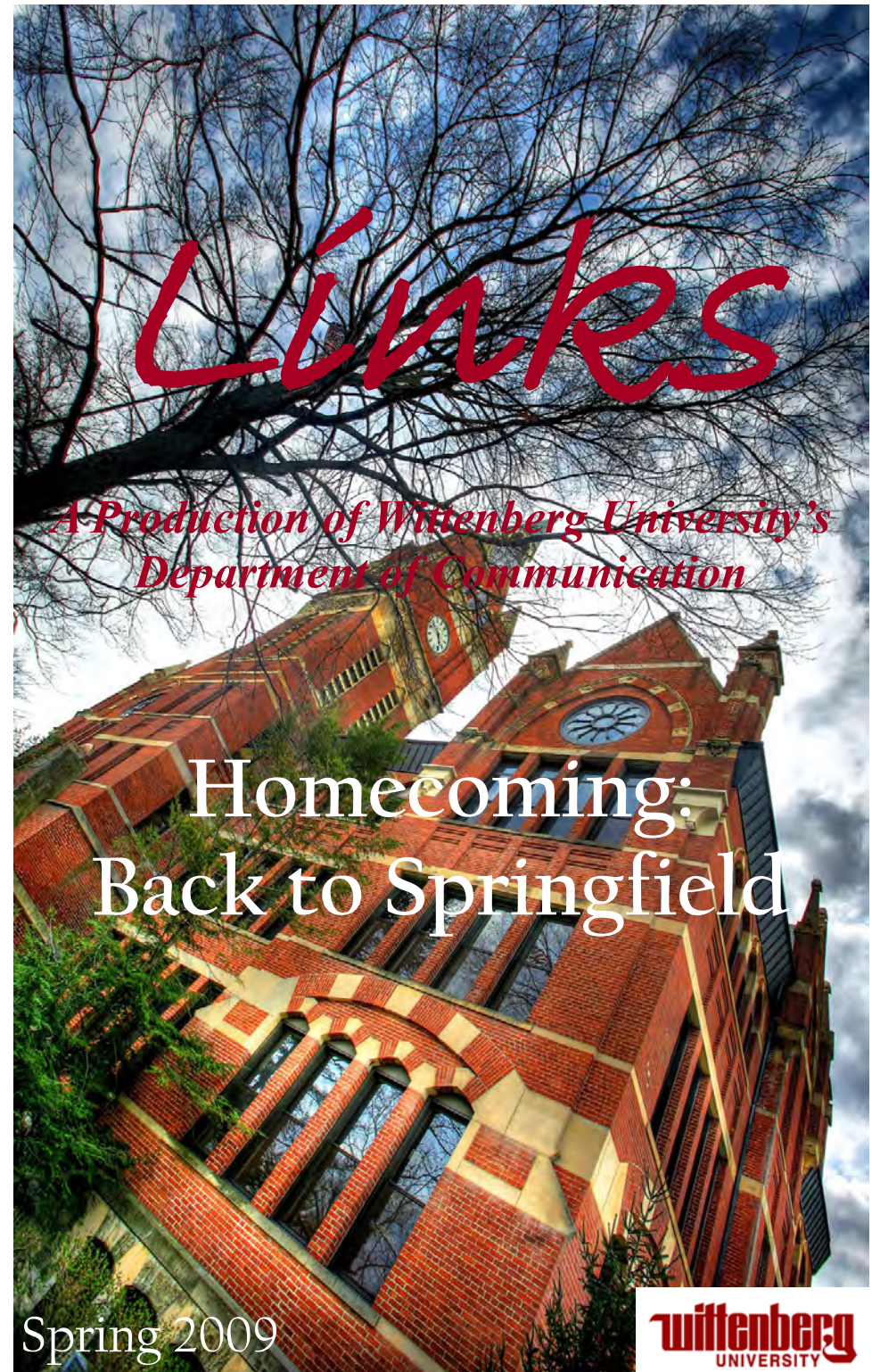


Looking back on a great year...



Have News To Share?

Email Kelly Clark - s10.kclark@wittenberg.edu!



Spring 2009

wittenberg
UNIVERSITY

Letter from the Editor



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT of Communication at Wittenberg University! First, I would like to introduce myself as the new Alumni Liaison for the department. During the next year it will be up to me to keep our growing alumni database updated and create this and next year's publications of *Links*.

The best part of this job so far has been getting updates from you, the communication alumni. Your stories of adventures across the world and into corporate America are fascinating and informative. It is truly inspiring (as well as relieving!) to know that a communication degree from Wittenberg opens such outstanding opportunities in the "real-world" for those of us who will face graduation sooner than we think.

For this spring 2009 edition of *Links*, I thought a fitting theme would be "Homecoming" because it seems that many alumni have found grand opportunities in Springfield.

With two new additions to the staff, an increasing number of Witt students who are choosing to be communication majors, and the expanding network of alumni, our community is making a difference on campus, and more importantly, outside of the "Witt bubble."

As alumni, so many of you have found your light and you are now prolifically passing it on to others. This publication highlights only a few of your fellow alumni, and I hope you enjoy reading about their stories of success and achievement. I encourage you to keep updating the department with your whereabouts and accomplishments!

Best wishes,

Kelly E. Clark

Kelly E. Clark
Class of 2010



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Cover Photo of Recitation Hall by Erin
Pence '04, Wittenberg University
Photographer

Alumni Notes & News 10

Jake Rollefson '05 -
Will be attending the
University of Mil-
waukee for the Media
Studies Program.



Caitlin Augustus '08 -
Event Coordinator in
the Marketing
Communications
Department at
Qbase, Dayton, OH.
Engaged to Jordan
Shumaker to be
married in summer
'09.

Jodi Stooksberry '05
- Graduate Assistant to
the Office of Educa-
tional Leadership at
Miami University.
Will attend Univer-
sity of Cincinnati's Doctoral program in
sociology.

Sarah Fetters '08 -
Media Relations Staff Assistant, Eastern
Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

Emily Hiscar-Schearer '06 - Marketing &
Promotions Director for Athletics at Austin
Peay State University, Clarksville, TN. Mas-
ters in Science, Sports Management, Ithaca
College '07. Married in winter '07.

Amy Fickert '08 - Cruise Directors Staff
for Royal Caribbean International, Mi-
ami, FL.

Michael Burk '06 - Project coordinator for
Research Interactive, Columbus, Ohio.

Mark Harriman '08 - Branch Manager for
Stanley Steemer, Tulsa, OK.

Sarah Gearhart '06 - Associate Director for
STACK Magazine, Cleveland, Ohio.

D.J. Hlovchic '08 - Bramkamp Printing
Company, Cincinnati, OH.

Matt Green '06 - Tour Consultant & Rela-
tionship Manager for EF Educational Tours,
Cambridge, MA. Will attend the Milano
New School for Management and Urban
Policy in NYC, NY.

Claire Johnson '08 - Business Communi-
cation Consultant. Cincinnati Bell, Cincin-
nati, OH.

Loren Breen '07 - Display Advertising Execu-
tive for The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, OH.

Zoe Lamberson '08 - Accepted to several
law schools.

Katie Karsnac '07 - Specialist, Convention
and Meetings Coordinator, National Com-
munication Association, Washington D.C.

Tiffany Mustric '08 - Program Developer
at Greenleaf Job Training Services, Inc.
and Palliative Care Volunteer at Children's
Hospital, Columbus, OH.

Tom Kincaid '07 - National and Global Ac-
counts Support Renewal Representative for
Quest Software, Dublin, OH.

Karen Phelan '08 - Assistanceship Project
Development Associate for AmeriCorps
VISTA, Indianapolis, IN. Attending the
University of North Carolina at Chapel
Hill for Ph.D. program in sociology.

Bill Lamkin '07 - Coordinator for Irwin En-
tertainment, Los Angeles, CA.

Christina Ricalde '08 - Non-Governmental
Organization, Ecuador.

Annie Nichols '07 - Family Services/ Faith
Relations for Habitat for Humanity, Spring-
field, Ohio. Position with Social Security,
Ashland, KY.

Holly Shaw '08 - Regional Customer Rep-
resentative for Abbott Nutrition, Colum-
bus, OH.

Nicole Wade '08 - Technical Recruiter for
TekSystems, Columbus, OH.

Having Light We Pass It On To Others



Campus News:

Dr. Smith Receives Alumni Association's Award for Distinguished Teaching



Dr. Smith receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award from John D. Morris '83. Photo by Erin Pence.

On Friday, April 17 Dr. Smith was awarded Wittenberg's highest teacher recognition at the Honors Convocation held in Weaver Chapel. The award has been in existence since 1960 and candidates are chosen by students, alumni, faculty, and staff. "This is my first year at Witt, but it's already clear to me why Dr. Smith would win such an award," Associate Professor, Dr. Sheryl Cunningham stated. "He's set a great example for me as a new faculty member. I consider myself lucky to get to work with him."

Finally! A Communication Minor at Wittenberg

Students have been interested in minoring in Communication for years, and for the first time, Wittenberg is now offering this opportunity. Sophomore Taylor Rengel believes that his communication minor will complement his economics major well. "Learning how to present your ideas in a clear and logical way can really help in the business world," Rengel stated. "The communication minor allows me to focus on my future profession while still complementing my skills as a communicator, which will help me enter the workforce."

Lambda Pi Eta, Communication Honorary Society

"Do Something Significant" for the Community

In her first year as the advisor, Dr. Kathleen Warber's goal for Lambda Pi Eta was to "do something significant." Last fall, Wittenberg's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta applied for a grant with the goal of improving the relationship between the Wittenberg and Springfield communities. They were awarded a \$500 Adviser Grant Program

Award from the Association of College Honor Societies which was used in the spring to clean up Springfield's Snyder Park. The grant required that Lambda Pi Eta work with another honors society on campus, and this role was fulfilled by Mortar Board. Lambda Pi Eta also worked in collaboration with Wittenberg's new Center for Civic and Urban Engagement. The goal in mind was to provide an appealing environment for the Wittenberg and Springfield communities. Lambda Pi Eta members plan to continue their service to the community as each member is responsible for completing at least five hours of community service each semester. The two projects that Lambda Pi Eta and Mortar Board undertook were the Simon Kenton Bike Trail Clean-Up and a clean up of Snyder Park.



Members of the Xi Pi Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta gathered at Snyder Park as a part of a community service project that earned a \$500 grant. Photo by Lukas Treu.

Erin Pence '04

Passing On Her Light Through Photography

LATE IN HIGH SCHOOL, ERIN PENCE '04 GOT her hands on a professional camera for the first time. She received her own as a gift from her bother for high school graduation, and when she received "Best in Show" at the Ohio State Fair, she decided that pursuing a career in professional photography was her calling.

"Somewhere in between I decided that I wanted to be a photojournalist," Pence stated. "I'm not sure when, it was like I just woke up one day and decided that it was what I wanted to do."

Her work is now globally recognized in newspapers and online news sites around the world. She has received numerous awards, including Best Photographer for 2005 from the Associated Press Society of Ohio and winning 3rd place in the MSNBC 2007 Year In Photos.

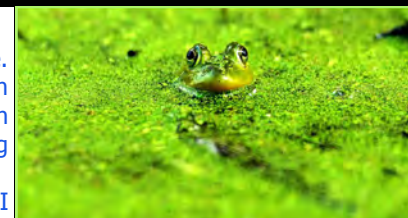
Her career kicked off upon graduating as an intern for her local daily newspaper and she was able to work her way up to become the chief photographer of the Sidney Daily News by the spring of 2005.

Pence was reunited with the Wittenberg community once again last November as she is now the University Photographer, overseeing the entire photographic needs of Wittenberg. A typical day for her involves a full schedule of taking photographs for the website, brochures, advertisements, athletics, and the Witt Light campaign. Her title also includes being the photo editor of the Wittenberg magazine and she often works on special projects for the Office of University Communications.

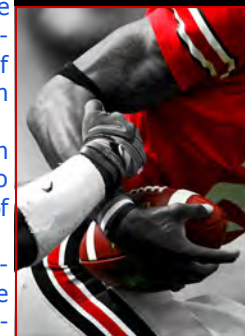
Although there was no journalism minor during her time here, her classes at Witt including Media Literacy, Media Law, Media Criticism (her favorite class with Dr. Smith), Journalism I and II, and Photography were all helpful in guiding her in her career path.

"I'm not sure anything can truly prepare you for the 'real world,' but I definitely utilized the knowledge I gained as a Communication major," she reflected. "Everything from determining the mood of a situation by reading non-verbal cues, to studying Media Law, and knowing my rights as a member of the press."

She claims to sometimes miss the fast-paced life of a photojournalist but is ecstatic to be back at Witt. "I couldn't be happier to be back at my Alma Mater," she stated. "Coming back to Witt was like coming home."

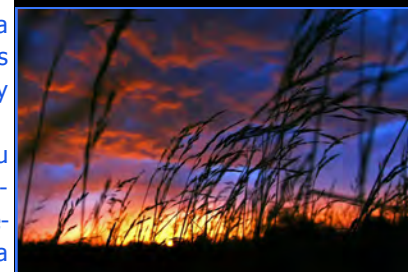


This photograph was taken by Pence at Roadside Park in Sidney, Ohio. The public voted third place in MSNBC.com's Year In Pictures in



Pence captured this photo of The Ohio State University freshman quarterback Terrelle Pryor during the Ohio State vs. Minnesota game.

"I couldn't be happier to be back at my Alma Mater. Coming back to Witt was like coming home."



Pence took this picture of a sunset in her own backyard in Anna, Ohio.

More of Erin's work can be found on her website at www.erinpence.com.

Wittenberg Welcomes 3

Professor Kristine Warrenburg



PROFESSOR KRISTINE WARRENBURG IS GLAD TO BE back in the Midwest and especially glad to be a part of Wittenberg University's Department of Communication. This past year, Warrenburg replaced Dr. Waggoner while she was on sabbatical.

Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Professor Warrenburg earned her B.A. from DePauw University, majoring in Communication Arts and Sciences and her M.A. from Butler University with a concentration in United States history and race relations. She is also a doctoral candidate at the University of Denver with a concentration in rhetoric and communication ethics.

Aside from her impressive academic background, Wittenberg students are glad to have her here to pass her knowledge on. Warrenburg taught a variety of courses in the fall and spring, including Public Speaking, Introduction to Communication Theory, Reasoning and Communication, and Race and Rhetoric.

“Wittenberg students put forth an ethic of hard work and have proved to be curious, thoughtful, and involved.”

“I have always been drawn to the liberal arts and Wittenberg put forth an exceptional model for interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship,” Warrenburg mentioned when asked why she chose Wittenberg. “I was also impressed with the members of the Department of Communication. They work to foreground communication ethics, deliberative discussion, and rigorous research in both theory and practice.”

Warrenburg's favorite thing about Wittenberg so far is “the people,” as “everyone has been more than friendly.” Her impression of Witt students has been favorable from the start. Immediately upon arriving on campus she noticed that the students are “involved and active.”

“It seems that every Witt student that I have encountered has some kind of extra curricular activity or group that they are dedicated to beyond immediate classroom expectations,” Warrenburg confessed. “This is impressive because it tells me that they are part of larger community and are able to balance their time between coursework and social interests.”



Comic-Con in San Diego with Dr. Smith 8



A group of Wittenberg students and others are photographed at the Comic-Con International in San Diego, CA.

Dr. Smith's passion for comics led a group of Witt students and others on a five day venture to San Diego, California to discover the dynamics of marketing and fan culture. Comic-Con International is the largest comic arts event worldwide, and students were able to experience the true definition of pop-culture firsthand.

Students were active researchers and participants while at the conference using the method of ethnography. During the conference they participating by attending programs led by professionals, vendors, and even celebrities, observed fan behaviors, studied the comic industries' cultural artifacts, and interviewed participants. Over

100,000 people attend the event each year to experience the 525,000 square foot exhibit hall which features experts in the following industries: anime and manga, comic books and graphic novels, gaming and trading cards, film and television, toys an collectibles, video gaming, and much more.

Summer '08 & Comm. Students: Studying Abroad Learning about Comics and Culture

Tokyo, Japan with Dr. Broz

Dr. Broz's Intercultural Communication class was able to fully grasp the idea of communication between cultures, as they were fully immersed in the Japanese culture. For six weeks the group lived in the heart of Tokyo at the National Youth Center.

“Not only were we learning the aspects of intercultural communication but we were experiencing them and living them in everyday experience in Japan,” junior Communication major, Amy Prugh commented. Students spent three hours in the classroom each morning, which Prugh described as

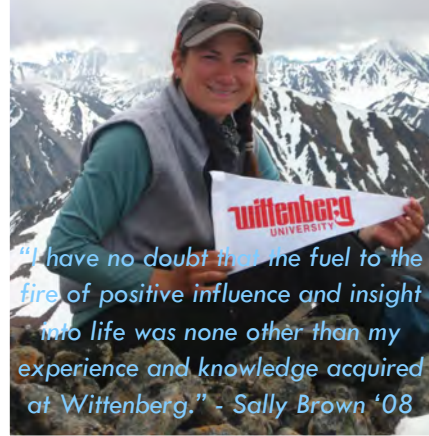
“extremely difficult and fast-moving,” but also had extensive free time to explore the city on their own (as well as others, Kamakura and Kyoto, for example). The group was exposed to the history of Tokyo, as they visited several temples and shrines and the National History Museum, as well as the corporate side of Tokyo by visiting a company and learning about business hierarchy. Each week they partnered up with their own personal “conversation partner” which gave them an opportunity to connect with others interpersonally and actively participate in intercultural communication.



Students joined Dr. Broz in Tokyo, Japan for 5 weeks to study intercultural communication.

Into the Wild:

Sally Brown '08 Explores the Alaskan Terrain



"I have no doubt that the fuel to the fire of positive influence and insight into life was none other than my experience and knowledge acquired at Wittenberg." - Sally Brown '08

7 Graduating from Wittenberg brought Sally Brown '08 to the realization that although her college years were over, she still had a great desire to learn and experience new things. This led to her 30 day expedition into the Alaskan terrain. She describes this experience as "one of the most beautiful growing experiences I have ever been challenged with."

"Alaska taught me many new things about people, myself, the earth, and life in general along with the importance to strive for balance in these areas of my life," Brown explained. "However, I have no doubt that the fuel to the fire of positive influence and insight into life was none other than my experience and knowledge acquired at Wittenberg."

When asked about her college experience, she describes attending Witt as one of the best decisions of her life. "Witt tested my mental strength and built my knowledge in multiple

ways," she described, "molding me into the persevering hard worker that I am today."

She believes that without the lessons learned as a communication major, her experience in Alaska would have been much more difficult. Her knowledge gained regarding group dynamics and numerous communication theories were all applicable throughout her expedition.

"Whether it was learned perseverance and patients that helped me summit a mountain, or my extensive studies in communication to understand the inner working of a dynamic group presented with 'unique' situations such as responsibility for others' safety, leading a group, or simply living in extremely close quarters with twelve strangers for a month," the invaluable lessons taught by her professors played an critical role in creating success on her trip.

First Witt Communication Alumni Couple to Tie the Knot!

Matt Berry '06 and Alecia Dimar '06

It turns out that the Kissing Bridge myth may be true, and the first Wittenberg Communication graduates to prove it are Matt Berry '06 and Alecia Dimar '06. The couple is engaged to be married this fall on September 5, 2009. The wedding and reception will take place in Louisville, Kentucky. Dimar and Berry both reside in Chicago and plan to live there for the next few years. Dimar has completed her master's degree in public relations and communication from DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Berry plans to finish a master's of science in management and organizational behavior next spring from Benedictine University in Lisle, IL, where is currently an academic advisor.



Alecia Dimar '06 and Matt Berry '06 at the Great Wall of China on a summer vacation.

Two New Professors

4

Dr. Sheryl Cunningham

DR. SHERYL CUNNINGHAM JOINS THE DEPARTMENT AS THE fifth full-time addition to the faculty. She is on track for tenure and is enthusiastic about her colleagues, students, and the opportunity to teach during the past presidential election (she has a great passion for politics).

Originally from a small town in Northwest Ohio, Edon, Cunningham earned her B.A. in English from Bluffton University. She moved to Athens, Ohio to attend Ohio University for four years where she earned her master's in English, and also had a concentration in women's studies. She then taught courses in the Women's Studies and English Departments for one year.

Her interest in political discourse led her across the country to the University of Washington in Seattle to study political communication and rhetoric. She earned her Ph.D. in 2008.

"My interests in communication are in rhetoric and media studies, with a focus on political discourse," Cunningham stated. "I'm really interested in political rhetoric and the interaction between political actors and news media outlets."

Cunningham taught a variety of classes over the year, including Introduction to Communication Studies, Public Speaking, Topics in Rhetoric: Communicating Identity in American Politics, Media Literacy, and Critical Methods.

Upon arriving on Wittenberg's campus, she has enjoyed the friendly and helpful nature of the faculty, staff, and students. "I just have the sense that people want to help others here," she professed. "There's a sense of community that I really like."

She has also been impressed with Wittenberg's efforts to become more of an environmentally friendly campus. "I'm glad to see all the green efforts on campus: recycling, the co-op, and maybe composting soon," Cunningham said. "I look forward to getting more involved in that movement in the future." She will certainly begin to have an impact on students' environmental awareness when she teaches Environmental Communication next fall.

Her perception of Wittenberg communication students thus far has been positive, as she is very impressed with their overall participation in extracurricular activities. "A pleasant surprise is that students come to my office hours or just stop by to talk to me about class or other things," she said. "I like getting to know them."

Her message to communication alumni? "Let the department know how you're doing. We're always interested in showing our current students what opportunities are available to them with a communication degree from Witt."



"I just have the sense that people want to help others here. There's a sense of community that I really like." -Dr. Cunningham

Homecoming: ⁵ Back to Springfield ⁶

Ashley Petersen '07 Passes On Her Light to Alumni Across the Nation



Ashley

Petersen's cast member shot on the Witt Nation website.

Upon graduating last May, Ashley Petersen didn't have to worry about moving away or saying goodbye to Wittenberg. She is now the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations for Wittenberg. Two internships in different areas of Advancement during Petersen's senior year led her to this opportunity and allowed her to establish herself as a part of the Office of Alumni Relations.

"When I was offered the job I already knew that I loved the department and everyone who was a part of it," she stated.

"When you work for your alma mater everyone has a vested interest in your success and you are presented with opportunities you might not have had

otherwise."

Simply put, her job entails creating and maintaining connections between Wittenberg University and alumni. On a day-to-day basis she is involved with planning alumni events for Homecoming and the Witt Nation tour, responding to individual alumni inquiries, developing alumni travel programs, and collaborating with the senior class.

"Our department's goal is to make sure that the vast ma-

"My experience at Witt has been life changing."

-Ashley Petersen '07

majority of students graduating from Wittenberg have developed a connection with the university that we can help them maintain throughout the rest of their lives," Petersen stated.

Her most exciting project thus far was traveling along with Brian DeSantis '07 on the first Witt Nation tour across the country. The 7,000 mile journey took them to 17 cities where they hosted alumni events and conducted five service events. In just 21 days they met more than 1,000 Wittenberg alumni, students, and future students.

The best part about the trip for Petersen was being hosted in the homes of alumni. "There really is an amazing sense of community among Wittenbergers," she stated. "It was great to experience that first hand."

Petersen believes that her experiences with the Department of Communication has benefitted her ability to connect with alumni and adapt to the different audiences that she comes across. "A lot of what I do in alumni relations can be considered customer service, so the basic communication principles I learned here at Witt are extremely useful."

For more information on the summer 2009 Witt Nation Tour, visit www.wittenberg.edu/wittnation.



The Witt Nation Tour made a 7,000 mile trek across the country in just 21 days. *Photo featured on the Witt Nation website.*

A 6,000 MILE TRIP ACROSS the country was motivated by a desire to see the country, gain a new perspective on life, network with graphic designers, and learn more about graphic design by studying books and software. After visiting 16 cities, Angela Trego '04 accomplished her mission and found the freedom she was looking for.

She described her trip as "a journey of the heart, mind, and the road cross-country." This trip allowed her to escape the reality of society, everyday life, and public opinion and achieve a sense of freedom that she'd never experienced before.

The highlights of her road trip were celebrating a birthday and Thanksgiving, being in a wedding, and visiting a friend's newborn—all while keeping up with friends and family back home.

Being in contact with new and old friends, family members that she hadn't seen in years, and graphic designers about every seven hours of her two month long trip allowed her to gain insight to so many peoples' perspectives of living. "My hosts helped me in every way they could with my goals of my travels," she said. "Whether it was tasting the local delicacy, see the sites, or gaining contacts in the field of graphic design, they were amazing."

A few months after her trip she held an event for family, friends, and the public at Un Mundo Café in Springfield to share her experiences, and claims that her education in communication gave her the passion to share her experiences at a public event.

"My Wittenberg experience gave me the confidence and courage to jump and not listen to the people that thought it was a silly idea," Trego claimed. "I knew that a well-structured trip would be a success and give me stories I could tell for a lifetime."

Trego has returned to Springfield and is now the project manager at Springboard, a branding and marketing company, and Oxitem, a marketing technology company. She has launched numerous websites and is currently working on 12 new projects.

"The key to project management is communication, so I was very thankful for my degree," she said. "Managing the client, developers and all of the pieces of the project is where my degree comes in handy."



Trego's route entailed visiting 16 cities, traveling 6,000 miles and two months of driving.