



Links

Wittenberg University
Department of Communication
Newsletter

Connecting Alumni,
Students and Faculty

2012

Photo courtesy of Shelly Gregory ('13)

From the Alumni Liaison

Greetings from the Department of Communication at Wittenberg University! For the past two years I have had the opportunity to be the Department's Alumni Liaison. I just want to give a big thanks to all the alumni who make it possible for our Department to keep in contact with you all.

This fall, senior Shelly Gregory will fulfill the Alumni Liaison position and I'm certain she will do a wonderful job at that.

Hearing all the success of our Department's alumni is truly inspiring and gives me great hope of what my future will bring. I'm happy to be part of such a loving and close community.

We hope you enjoy all of the stories of what our department has been up to and the achievements that have been made by you. I encourage you to keep sending us all of your wonderful updates!

All the best,
Katie E. Wenger ('12)

From the Director of Publicity

Hello everyone! I have had the pleasure of working alongside Katie this year on this 2012 issue of Links.

I'm excited to take on the full position of Alumni Liaison this fall as I've enjoyed working on this issue so much.

I want to give a big thanks to all of you for your continued contribution to Wittenberg by sharing your stories and keeping in touch. All of your stories serve as proof that Wittenberg's communication program is as top-notch as its graduates. They also make me excited to graduate next spring (but not TOO excited!).

Congrats to all of you, and keep passing your light on to others.

Sincerely,
Shelly Gregory ('13)

Links Staff Writers

Alissa Armstrong ('13)

Kristi Burkitt ('13)

Erin Egan ('12)

Benjamin Groff ('12)

Liz Guyer ('13)

Kailee Kratoville ('13)

Brynne Mayne ('13)

Charidy Murphy ('13)

Meagan Steade ('13)

In This Issue...

Page 2

Students Present Research at NCA Conference

Page 3

Caitlin Welsh ('10) is Making a Difference Overseas

Pages 4 — 5

Sarah Fetters ('08) and Katie Nemeth ('10) Come Home to Speak with Witt Students

Pages 6 — 7

Bill Lamkin ('07) and Tregg Nardecchia ('06) Enjoying Life and Work in California

Page 8

Spring Break in the Deep South with Dr. Waggoner

Page 9

Students Present Research at OCA Conference

Page 10

Lambda Pi Eta: The Communication Honorary

Page 11

Spring Colloquium: Honors Theses

Pages 12 — 13

Communication Leaders

Pages 14 — 21

Alumni News and Notes

Pages 22 — 23

Meredith Berzins ('11) and Hannah Powell ('03) Passing Their Light on to Others

Page 24

The Experience at Comic-Con

Page 25

Dancing with Clark County Celebrities

Page 26

Communication Majors Honored at Spring Convocation

Page 27

Dr. Broz Honored for Excellence in Teaching

Page 28

What Our Graduates Say

Page 29

Dr. Warber's Passion for Research

Page 30

A Note from the Dept Chair

Page 31

Laurels in Communication

Page 32

The Cinema Studies Minor

Page 33

Comm Majors Celebrate Volleyball Victory

Page 34

Integrated Media Corps

Page 35

Internships by Comm Majors

Pages 36-37

Faculty Awards and Accomplishments



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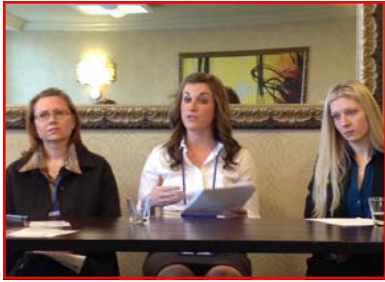


Check out the videos on our YouTube channel, WittComm!



2 Seniors Present Research at the National Communication Association Conference

by Shelly Gregory ('13)



Makstaller ('12), center, presenting her research

Seniors Jennifer Schaafsma and Dana Makstaller presented their research findings at the National Communication Association Conference held on November 17-20, 2011 in New Orleans.

Schaafsma's research focused on religious commitment and explicit forgiveness granting and seeking strategies, while Makstaller chose to focus her two research projects on social aggression amongst teenage girls and relationships between professors and students in the classroom.

Makstaller's research topics were selected with the help of Dr. Katie Warber, who allowed Makstaller to gather data and include her in research assignments.



Drs. Waggoner and Warber, Schaafsma, Makstaller, and Dr. Broz at NCA

Schaafsma's topic stemmed from a research assignment she conducted while taking COMM 300Z: Social Scientific Research Methods, and it culminated in a Departmental Honors Thesis.

The National Communication Association annual conference also provides an opportunity to meet up with Wittenberg Communication alumni who are faculty or graduate students in Communication programs around the country. In New Orleans, these fun mini-reunions included chatting with Lisanne Grant ('06), who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Health Communication at the University of Kentucky, and Laura Russell ('04), who is an Assistant Professor at Denison University.



Lisanne Grant ('06) and Dr. Waggoner



Drs. Warber and Waggoner with Dr. Laura Russell ('04)

Caitlin Welsh ('10): Making a Difference on the Other Side of the World 3

By Kristi Burkitt ('12)

For many Wittenberg alumni, life after college begins in a location completely foreign to them. Cincinnati, Chicago, and Los Angeles seem to be popular choices among our alumni, but one Communication graduate has taken the term foreign to a whole new level. After graduating in 2010, Caitlin Welsh picked up her life and moved across the globe to Seoul, South Korea.



Caitlin Welsh ('10)

Welsh took a job teaching English to middle school students. Her original plans were to stay for only one year, but her initial experience was so positive that she decided to extend her contract, allowing her to continue teaching in South Korea until August of this year.

Caitlin believes that her degree in communication has played a vital role in the ease with which she has been able to adapt to a new culture, and she stresses the impact it has had on building relationships with her co-workers.

"As the only foreigner in a school of Korean teachers, what I learned at Wittenberg has helped me navigate the complex social system here in Korea and form close relationships with my co-workers," said Welsh. The Communication Department offers many courses that stress the importance of being culturally sensitive and knowledgeable, and Welsh's experience speaks to the value and utility of this specific area within communication.

Welsh's efforts have been so distinguishable that she has even been formally recognized because of them. This past December she received the prestigious 2011 Native Speaking English Teacher of the Year award, which is distributed by the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education.

When her contract expires this August, Welsh plans to return to the United States to attend graduate school for international education, so that she can continue passing her light on to others.

"What I learned at Wittenberg has helped me navigate the complex social system here in Korea and form close relationships with my co-workers."

4 Coming Home: Sarah Fetters ('08) Talks about Her Career in Sports Communication

by Shelly Gregory ('13) and Benjamin Groff ('12)

Graduating with a degree in Communication, Sarah Fetters ('08) seized the opportunity to have a career that meshed her education and her passion for athletics. As Assistant Director of Athletics Media Relations at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. for the last several years, Fetters's responsibilities ranged from scheduling interviews with players and coaches, to preparing postgame wrap-ups for the various events. However, this career did not simply fall into her hands; there was much that she learned at Wittenberg that prepared her well for this kind of work.



Fetters ('08) played softball while at Witt

Several current majors have an interest in sports communication/media, so when the faculty heard about her plans to visit campus, they were eager to arrange opportunities for her to meet with students. Fetters visited the Communication Leaders on April 25 and was the featured speaker at a luncheon on April 26 to share her post-graduation advice and wisdom about job searching, internships, and life after college.

She explained the path she took to successfully get a job after she graduated and how a Communication degree from Wittenberg helped her to get there. She attributed her success to the study of interpersonal communication and the emphasis on writing and research skills in the major. "I don't know a better application of Communication theories than interacting with fans on social media," said Fetters, who says a large part of her job is making fans feel like they are connected to the program.



Fetters discusses work-life balance with the 2011-2012 Communication Leaders

Beyond the classroom, she was an intern in the Office of University Communications in addition to playing softball. She was able to take those experiences to an internship with the West Virginia Power, a minor league baseball team. Fetters later landed an internship at ECU, which led to her position there. She has had the opportunity to travel across the U.S. and meet sports icons such as Lou Holtz.

Ryan Maurer, Director of News Services and Sports Information at Wittenberg, hired Fetters during her senior year at Wittenberg and was impressed with Fetters' enthusiasm and willingness to learn. "Sarah came in and she would say, 'Can I write that, will you edit it?'" She went above and beyond," said Maurer. Being proactive about gaining experience and connections were important to her professional development. Her advice to students looking for jobs is that "Sometimes it's not about what you know, it's about who you know. Shake hands, meet people, get to know them."

Fetters says, "my dream job is to get back to a Big Ten school." She is one step closer to that dream, having recently started a new job as Assistant Director of Athletics Media Relations at the University of Texas—Austin. She also hopes to pursue a Master's Degree and seek an administrative position at a Division III school. Fetters's biggest piece of advice about graduating and getting a job is this: "Find your passion. The first thing you think about in the morning is what you need to be doing for the rest of your life."

5 Coming Home: Katie Nemeth ('10) Affirms Importance of Research Methods

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

For communication alumna Katie Nemeth ('10), returning to campus in the spring to guest lecture in Dr. Warber's social scientific research methods course was an opportunity she couldn't ignore. Currently a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati with a focus in political communication, Nemeth has discovered her current studies bare an uncanny resemblance to what she learned in that course, a requirement of the Communication major at Wittenberg.



Nemeth presenting to students in Dr. Warber's Social Scientific Research Methods class

"Since I've started grad school, Witt's Communication methods requirement has put me leaps and bounds ahead of those that haven't had to take the class," said Nemeth. "Also, a lot of the skills that you learn in methods are transferrable, which is great, as not everyone is interested in the long and winding road of post-secondary education."

Nemeth was awarded an editorial assistantship this year and will be working on a scholarly journal called *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*. She is planning a trip to New Hampshire this fall to work alongside Dr. Judith Trent and Dr. Cady Short-Thompson on an article to be published in *American Behavioral Scientist*. "This is my first time being published in a national academic journal," said Nemeth. "As you can imagine, I'm excited and grateful to work alongside these accomplished women."

Nemeth is interested in analyzing the campaign rhetoric of Obama and Romney. "I'm interested in Obama's use of narrative and the Republican Party's use of ideographs, or abstract words that are vague in nature, like 'freedom' or 'family values,'" said Nemeth.

"Witt's Communication methods requirement has put me leaps and bounds ahead of those that haven't had to take the class."

Students enjoyed Nemeth's visit and guest lecture in Dr. Warber's class. "My favorite thing about Katie was that she's been where we are now," said Liz Guyer ('13). "It wasn't some Ph.D. candidate talking to us about how great methods is, but an actual Wittenberg grad that is using her Communication degree in the real world and has experience doing research."

Nemeth has plenty of advice for seniors and other students currently searching for jobs: Tell friends and family that you are searching for a job, because they can help you make connections. She also says to treat filling out job applications like a job. She says it is much easier to sing your own praises when you are dressed nicely and putting in the time and effort.

From Springfield to California: Bill Lamkin ('07)

by Charidy Murphy ('13)

Bill Lamkin ('07) majored in Communication because was interested in the “sociological aspects of interpersonal communication” as well as the “implications of the media and the impact on the person taking in its messages.” When Lamkin graduated, he moved to Los Angeles, CA.

“I had no idea what I was doing other than enjoying the weather,” said Lamkin. Eventually he found a job working as a producer’s assistant at Irwin Entertainment, which produces *Celebrity Rehab* for VH1, as well as other reality shows and comedy specials.

While working there, Lamkin learned all aspects of the production world and assisted on the set of several shows, including *Sex Rehab with Dr. Drew*, *Sober House*, and *Celeb Rehab 2*. Lamkin took particular notice of the Story Production team and decided he would be good at interviewing cast members and producing stories from “the ridiculous amount of footage” caught during filming.

Most recently, Lamkin story-assisted on an unscripted VH1 series called *Couples Therapy* featuring DMX, Linda Hogan, and Angelina from *Jersey Shore* when, Lamkin says, “a lot of the things I learned in my major came into play.”

Lamkin interviews cast members and found that the Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication courses were very applicable. “Delivery is everything when asking a lot of personal questions involving recent heartbreaks,” said Lamkin.

He admits, “It feels good to get someone to cry on camera during an interview, and it's not easy to get them to express themselves if you're just rattling off questions.”

Lamkin’s other duties include finding interesting stories within a show’s raw footage and sending rough cuts of the scenes to the editors, then helping rework the episodes as needed.

Regarding his work, Lamkin comments, “My favorite aspect of the work that I am doing is that every day is different. I have more of a sense of ownership over the shows I have worked on, and although I don't even have cable, it is still rewarding to have something to show for the hours spent in production and post-production.”

“My favorite aspect of the work that I am doing is that every day is different.”



Lamkin at work with his dog Lou, who accompanies him every day

From Springfield to California Tregg Nardecchia ('06)

by Charidy Murphy ('13)

Like Lamkin, Tregg Nardecchia ('06) also moved to California to pursue a career in the entertainment industry after graduation.



Nardecchia with Kathy Griffith

As a Witt student, Nardecchia was involved with the Wittenberg Student Dance Company and the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He believes that his involvement with these groups helped him develop leadership skills that he still applies in everyday life—especially the ability to interact and connect with different people.

Nardecchia says his favorite things about attending Wittenberg were the people he met along the way. “From the very first people I met during New Student Days, to my professors and academic advisor, the close-knit community was everything I wanted from my higher education experience,” he said.

Today, Nardecchia is a talent agent at the Agency for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, CA and has worked his way up from “assistant” to “full agent” in only two years. He focuses on celebrity personal appearances for speaking engagements, nightclubs, party hosting, and attends conventions looking for expert talent. He also works on commercial endorsements for the internet, TV, press conference-style media days, and print. Nardecchia’s favorite part of his work is seeing a campaign he has worked on get covered on TV or in magazines — “especially if the project was a success!”

Nardecchia has directly applied skills he learned from his Communication major. “It strengthened my public speaking skills, sharpened my writing ability, and [gave] me the confidence and ability to pursue a career in the entertainment industry,” Nardecchia said. He urges others considering the major to “consider its versatility for some of the most sought-after jobs in the current professional landscape.”

In keeping true to Wittenberg’s motto of “Having Light We Pass It On To Others,” Nardecchia’s first boss was a Wittenberg alumnus. Nardecchia says, “I can only hope I can open a door for someone like that in the future.”

The Communication major “strengthened my public speaking skills, sharpened my writing ability, and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.”

8 Spring Break in the Deep South

By Shelly Gregory ('13)



Participants in the Spring Break Service trip

Dr. Catherine Waggoner, Professor of Communication, created an alternative spring break service trip to Cary, Mississippi in March 2012.

Students from a variety of majors participated in this service experience with Waggoner, who grew up in the Mississippi Delta area. Waggoner's passion to share her background and show students that poverty exists in our country led her to create this unique service experience.

"The United States of America has a place like Cary, Mississippi, where people live in houses on concrete blocks and in shacks," said Waggoner. "I want them to see that and to know there's work to be done."

Wittenberg students volunteered through the Cary Christian Center organization with students from other universities as well. Throughout the day the volunteers were assigned to houses that they helped rebuild and renovate. The experience was emotional and rewarding.

"It's a reality check that makes you realize the world we live in is not so clean and neat, and individuals are needed everywhere to do work for their fellow humans," said Tyler Hall ('12), student leader for the trip.

Students also learned about themselves and grew from the experience.

"Personally, this trip was very rewarding. I honestly had no idea that I would have such a gratifying feeling afterwards," said Ryan Smith ('13). "I wouldn't trade my experience for anything."

Kirstie Hansen ('13) enjoyed the experience as well.

"For students who are considering this trip, I would say go," said Hansen. "No doubt about it, the people in Cary, Mississippi are amazing and welcoming, and it's a great time. Not to mention spending the week with Dr. Waggoner was also great!"

In the future, Waggoner hopes to teach a course about Mississippi and study gender roles in the region. She also hopes the class will take a trip to Mississippi together to better understand the area and climate.

"The United States of America has a place like Cary, Mississippi, where people live in houses on concrete blocks and in shacks."

9 Student Presents Research at OCA

By Shelly Gregory ('13)

During his senior year, Communication major Tyler Hall ('12) presented his research findings about the portrayal of Christianity in the television series "House, M.D." at the 75th Ohio Communication Association annual conference held at the University of Findlay from Sept. 30 through Oct. 1, 2011.

Hall chose his research topic, titled "Fools of Faith," because he is a huge fan of "House, M.D." and also because he is a Christian and has a vested concern in how media have simplified and coded religion.

"This research, in a way, started in the fall of 2009 when I took COMM 290S: Media Literacy. I did a critical process analysis on three religiously-themed comedies and started to realize the meanings that surround Christianity in the public sphere," said Hall. "I knew I wanted to look into the issue further, and the tools afforded me in COMM 301: Television Criticism served as the perfect arena to fully enact the critical research I had been envisioning."



Hall ('12) presents his research on the portrayal of Christianity in the television series, "House, M.D."



Hall ('12) and Dr. Matthew Smith at OCA

Hall submitted his final research paper to the OCA conference committee and was then selected to present his findings at the annual conference.

"Conferences are a great way to get a feel for the diversity and progress of any given field. Mine is just one among a conglomerate of voices that will be adding to the ongoing and multi-faceted discussion of how the human race creates, interacts with and responds to meaning," added Hall.

After all the time and effort spent putting his presentation together, Hall has only one thing he hopes audiences will learn from his research. "I hope my research provokes TV viewers to more critically assess what they're watching and what values certain shows communicate," said Hall.

The 2012 Ohio Communication Association Conference will be held at Kent State University this October. Communication Minor Lauren Houser ('13) will present her research on the young adult book series "The Hunger Games." Houser has studied the role of the female protagonist and the desired qualities that her character reflects.

"I hope to engage my audience and inspire them to take a closer look at the media they consume, even if it is simply a best-selling young adult book series," said Houser.

Tyler Hall ('12) will also attend OCA this year to participate in a panel discussion and in his role as a member of the Executive Board; he was elected last fall as an Undergraduate Student Representative.

Lambda Pi Eta: The Communication Honorary

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

On February 13, 2012, eight students were inducted into Wittenberg's chapter of the national Communication honorary, Lambda Pi Eta.



The eight newest members of Lambda Pi Eta from left: Harte, Hansen, Armstrong, Krueger, Gregory, Kratoville, and Makstaller

Alissa Armstrong, Trevor Grandy, Shelly Gregory, Kirstie Hansen, Erin Harte, Kailee Kratoville, Will Krueger, and Dana Makstaller were welcomed by current LPH officers Jenny Schaafsma (President), Lauren Harris (Vice President), Megan Tassone (Secretary/Treasurer), Tyler Hall (Historian/Alumni Liaison), and Brian Duke (Social Chair). The members of LPH invited Wittenberg Communication alumna Meredith Berzins ('11) to speak for the induction ceremony.



Immediately after being inducted, the eight new members, along with the existing members, of LPH got to work giving back. For their first service project of the semester, Lambda Pi Eta volunteered at a family night hosted by Springfield North High School on February 16, 2012.

Spring Colloquium: Celebrating Scholarship

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

The Spring 2012 Department of Communication Colloquium highlighted the work of three recipients of Departmental Honors in Communication. Seniors Lauren Harris, Hannah Leguillon, and Jenny Schaafsma presented their original scholarly research projects. They spent all year researching, designing, and carrying out investigations on topics of interest to them.

Lauren Harris presented her research on how John McCain used both gender and racial stereotypes in three attack advertisements directed toward Barack Obama in an attempt to create an electable persona.

Hannah Leguillon presented her research on how religiosity plays into perceived attractiveness and religious displays.

Jenny Schaafsma presented her research on individuals' religious commitment and forgiveness strategies.



Lauren Harris

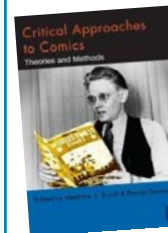


Hannah Leguillon



Jenny Schaafsma

Congratulations to Dr. Matthew Smith on the publication of his latest book, "Critical Approaches to Comics: Theories and Methods." Published in October 2011 and co-authored by Dr. Randy Duncan, this groundbreaking book offers students a deeper understanding of the artistic and cultural significance of comic books and graphic novels by introducing key theories and critical methods for analyzing comics.



This book was nominated for "Best Educational/Academic Work" as part of the 2012 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards. This is the "Oscars" of the comic book world, and this nomination provides esteemed recognition of his work.

The 2011-2012 Communication Leaders Experience

by Shelly Gregory ('13)



The 2011-2012 Communication Leaders at Google in Chicago, before presenting their recommendations regarding college students' use of Google+.

Communication Leaders focuses on bridging the gap between college life and the working world by providing opportunities for students to network with business representatives as well as conduct research and present their findings to executives at companies and nonprofits.

The 2011-2012 Communication Leaders concluded a great year with a long weekend trip to Chicago to present to Google and Accenture as well as visit several other companies in the area.

Team Accenture (Alyssa Brake, Taylor Clark, Brian Duke, Dana Makstaller, Megan Monreal, and Jenny Schaafsma) presented their case study first. Their study dealt with intercultural communication challenges faced by Accenture consultants working on global teams.

"The panelists were enthusiastic and engaged in the presentation, and the feedback the group received was very positive," said Dr. Katie Warber, who directs the program.

Later that afternoon, Team Google (Katie Bauer, Dave Erickson, Tyler Hall, Hannah Leguillon, Jenna Montali, and Megan Tassone) presented their case study to a panel of Google employees. Their case study involved an evaluation of Google's social networking platform, Google+.

"The students did an excellent job of presenting Google with a college-aged perspective on the benefits and drawbacks of Google+," said Warber.



The 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Communication Leaders

Before leaving Chicago, the Comm Leaders met with alumni for dinner and networked. Alumni in attendance included Mike Holley ('08), Joelle Ghanem ('10), and Boo Vernon ('11).

Students in this program researched and worked on their Google and Accenture presentations for the entire semester. The hard work paid off.

"Each team brought up ideas that the companies liked so much that they said they'd begin to think of ways that they may be able to implement them in the future," said senior Brian Duke.

Expanding the Communication Leaders Experience

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

The Communication Leaders program is expanding to include Business majors and minors as the program reinvents itself to become C.A.B.L.E., or the Communication And Business Leadership Experience.

This new program will begin in the spring of 2013 and will run through fall of 2013, which means that it will bridge the participants junior and senior years. This is a shift from the how the Communication Leaders operated, running through fall and spring of participants' senior year.

"One of the key additions to the C.A.B.L.E. program is the requirement that students complete a summer internship between the two semesters," said Dr. Matthew Smith, who will co-direct the C.A.B.L.E. program with Dr. Wendy Gradwohl of the Business Department. "I believe this will enhance what students have to bring to the experience in the second semester as they will all have 'real world' experience to pull in at that time."

The C.A.B.L.E. program is open to any Communication or Business major or minor. As before, students will be selected competitively based on prior leadership experiences, academic performance, and vocational interests.

*"Our alumni are increasingly integral to our efforts. Communication Leaders relied a lot on Ohio University alums to help us get our footing but now we really are looking for Wittenbergers to "Tiger Up" and help us move forward."
-Dr. Matthew Smith*

Meanwhile, the 2012-2013 Communication Leaders kicked off their year with a gathering at Dr. Matthew Smith's house in August, where they enjoyed a cookout and got to know each other better. They next traveled to Camp Joy in Clarksville, Ohio for a bonding experience that included activities such as a ropes course. "Camp Joy was a great opportunity to learn about ourselves as well as one another," said Swati Shivshankar ('13).

The Communication Leaders' fall project will involve creating an alumni network in order to initiate and maintain better contact with Communication Leaders alumni.

"Building an alumni network is an important task for this year's Communication Leaders be-



2012-2013 Communication Leaders: Top row from left: Alissa Armstrong, Kelsey Dimar, Jessie Batanian, Jane Tsvitse, Liz Guyer, Meagan Steed, Kailee Kratoville. Bottom row from left: Erin harte, Swati Shivshankar, Kirstie Hansen, and Kristi Burkitt. Not pictured: Shelly Gregory.

cause, as we merge our program with the Department of Business, it's imperative that students have mentors they can turn to for support," said Dr. Katie Warber, Director of the Communication Leaders program.

This year's Communication Leaders will visit companies such as Wilt PR and TEKsystems in Springfield, and ODW Logistics in Columbus this fall, with farther destinations planned for spring.

Alumni News and Notes

2003

Amanda Clapp graduated from Case Western Reserve University Law School in 2006 with her Juris Doctorate. She is licensed to practice law in Ohio and Florida, and she currently works as in-house counsel for NEOLA Inc..

Kristen (Scheerer) Gebhart is a Fitness Instructor at the YMCA in Roann, IN.

Hannah Powell married Todd Tuney on April 28, 2012. She serves as Executive Director of KIPP Central Ohio. (See feature on p. 34)

Jennifer (Stacy) Bradley is the Principal of The Buffkin Group, a retained executive search firm that recruits executives for marketing, technology, healthcare, and media companies. Jennifer married Bryce Bradley of Nashville, TN in 2010. She is a 5-time marathoner; her next race will be the "Hood To Coast" 197 mile relay through Portland to the ocean.



2004



Kristin Collin is the Sales Coordinator for the Cleveland and Columbus branches of Career Corporation. She earned her M.B.A. from Franklin University in 2011.

Angela (Trego) Crist is Career Advisor for the Web Design and Development & Internet Marketing students and alumni at Full Sail University. She and her husband were married in August 2010 and currently reside in Orlando, FL.

Erin (Bonner) Kennedy married David Kennedy (Ohio University, 04) on October 1, 2011 in Pittsburgh, PA. Erin is Senior Market Research Analyst, Alliance Data.



Natalie Sobonya McAllister works at Global Prairie, an integrated marketing communications company. She recently graduated from Cleveland Bridge Builders, a civic leadership program that develops rising leaders for Cleveland's future.

Laura Russell is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Denison University in Ohio.

Michael Wesbecher is the Assistant Director of Communications in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois—Chicago.

Alumni News and Notes

2005

David Fleenor is currently pursuing his Masters in Training and Development with a concentration in E-Learning from Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL. He works at Roosevelt University in Admissions and recently married Ann Delaney Fleenor ('06).



Justin Howard is a Manager in Purchasing for Carmax. He also opened The Black Box Improv Theater in Dayton, OH. He and his wife Emily reside in Miamisburg, OH.

2006

Lara Bachelder is engaged and planning a December 1, 2012 wedding to her fiancé Gregory Lafontaine. Lara is a Media planner at inVentiv Communication in Westerville, Ohio, a parent company to several advertising agencies.

Jessica Fisher began working for Modern Medical Inc. in September 2007, where she is a service coordinator for Worker's compensation insurance companies. Jessica lives in the Columbus/Worthington area.

Lisanne Grant is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication at the University of Kentucky. She obtained her M.A. in Health Communication from New Mexico State University in 2008. Her research interests include health and mass communication; specifically, she is interested in investigating effective campaign strategies to reduce risky sexual behaviors.

Sara Gearhart is a Senior Producer for USA Today Sports Media. She recently completed her eighth marathon in New York City.

Emily Hiscar is the Assistant Director of Marketing and Sales at the Xavier University Department of Athletics, where she also is pursuing her M.B.A.

Shari Jayawardhana is a Communication and Reporting Officer for the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Sri Lanka.

Brian McCoach was promoted to Senior Planning Director at Hearst Magazines in January 2012. He lives in New York.

Tregg Nardecchia is a Talent Agent in the Branded Lifestyle Department at APA Talent & Literary Agency in Beverly Hills, CA. (See feature on p. 7.)

Laura (Lachman) Pitney got married on August 6, 2011 to Jason Pitney. Laura is the Assistant Director of Admission at Wittenberg University, where she has worked since 2008.

Courtney (Bennett) Sanders and her husband Brian had a baby girl, Alexandra Leigh, on August 30, 2012. They reside in Columbus, where Courtney is the Graduate Program Coordinator for the Department of Political Science. She also runs the department's communications program and is working on a new communication strategy, including marketing materials and developing an online presence.



Phil Steffes is branch manager at Springleaf Financial in Columbus, OH. He married Sarajane (Stofac) Steffes ('09) on August 27, 2011.

Alumni News and Notes

2007

Tara Beckman works at Nationwide Insurance and resides in Columbus, OH.

Melissa Crosby earned her M.A. in Media Studies from The Newhouse School at Syracuse University in 2009 and currently works as an Assistant Research Analyst at TargetCast in New York City, a media agency that plans and buys ad placements across all media outlets.

Rachel Dunn is Senior Marketing Specialist, American Medical Association. She resides in Chicago, IL.

Susan Feuer is Digital Analytics Strategic Planner at Upshot in Chicago, IL.



Abby (Hurt) Fisher married Aaron Fisher, a graduate from OSU, in September 2010. They reside in Dublin, OH with their puppy Ruxin. Abby works for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, where she is a School Based Manager.

Mark Harriman is a Branch Manager for Stanley Steemer in Fort Collins, CO.

Amy Holden is Associate Director of Development, Foundation Relations and Director of Development, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University Foundation.

Andy Hutter is an Account Manager at DynamIt Technologies in Columbus, OH.

Julie Machledt is a clinical social worker at Turning Point Family Services, a community mental health agency in Mooresville, NC. In 2011 she received her M.A. in Social Work from Indiana University's School of Social Work, with a concentration in Mental Health and Addiction.

Ashley Petersen is a Digital Marketing Consultant for GrowthWeaver in Fort Collins, CO.

2008

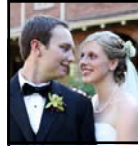
Jocelin Baker is currently the Apparel and Promotions Program Specialist for Logos@Work in Dayton, Ohio. Jocelin was the recipient of the 2011 Mercury Award for Best Ad Specialties Rep. She recently got engaged, and in September the couple had their first child, Sophia Hazel Dean.



Mike Holley is Lead Marketing Strategist at Simple Machines Marketing. He manages a small team that is responsible for the strategic component of client operations (performing research and developing marketing plans for clients).

Alumni News and Notes

2008, continued



Keeley (Buehler) Hunter is a Ph.D. student at the University of Denver, studying Rhetoric and Communication Ethics. She married James Hunter ('09) on July 2, 2011.

2009

Katrina (Sundstrom) Bremer just celebrated her first year working at Hilton Head Health, one of the country's premier weight loss and health facilities. She is currently in charge of customer service and mainly responsible for in-house guests and return bookings. She married Heinrich Bremer last November.

Kristian (Kovacs) Grizzell is a Job Developer at Greenleaf JTS, Inc. She married Zach Grizzell in September 2011, and the couple resides in Columbus, OH.



Andrea Lauer is Special Events Manager for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Internship Program. She resides in Kensington, MD.

Sara McKinniss is Marketing and Public Relations Manager for ODW in Columbus, OH.

Tara Osborne is a Digital Consultant at Enquirer Media .

Keith Pfeffer graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law this past May (Juris Doctor degree). He is a Contract Negotiator with the United States Air Force.

Sarajane (Stofac) Steffes is working as an Assistant Administrator at National Church Residences. She married Phil Steffes ('06) on August 27, 2011.

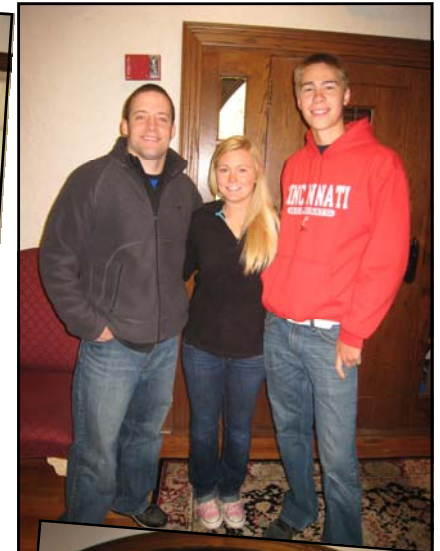


Lukas Treu married Wittenberg graduate Erin Meredith ('09) on December 31, 2011. He is Content Architect at AKHIA Public Relations.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend is October 4-7, 2012

There are lots of fun activities planned for Homecoming Weekend next month. Check out the schedule of events on the Wittenberg Alumni website, and be sure to stop by and say "hello" while you're on campus!





The Department of Communication Tenth Anniversary Celebration Homecoming Weekend - Oct. 22, 2011

Students, alumni, faculty, and administration gathered to celebrate the Department's tenth year as a major at Wittenberg! Speakers included Dr. Catherine Waggoner, who discussed the creation of the major, as well as Department Chair Dr. Stefne Broz, Laura Russell ('04), Sara McKinniss ('09), and Tyler Hall ('12).



Alumni News and Notes

2010

Megan Ameen is an IT Recruiter for the Nationwide Insurance account at TEKsystems in Columbus, OH.



Leslie Chasteen is the External Relations Coordinator for an all-girls Catholic high school in Cincinnati, OH. She recently went back to school at Xavier University to obtain her M.S. in Executive Human Resource Development where she will graduate in May 2014. She is also planning a wedding for June, 15 2013.

Jade Chivington is a Project Manager at Transportation Research Center, Inc., an automotive proving grounds in East Liberty, Ohio. She also attends Ashland University, where she is pursuing her M.B.A. with a focus in HR and Finance.

Kelly Clark is an Account Executive at AbelsonTaylor, a pharmaceutical advertising firm. She lives in Chicago with three other Wittenberg alumni, including Joelle Ghanem ('10).

Jennifer Dick is in her third year at the Law School at Capital University in Columbus, OH.

Joelle Ghanem is Assistant Account Manager at Leo Burnett Advertising Agency in Chicago, IL. She currently works on two brands: Samsung Global and "Beef. It's What's For Dinner"



Amy (Prugh) Lintern married fellow Wittenberg graduate Mark Lintern ('08) on February 26, 2011 and is currently working as a Sales Consultant/Product Manager for Automatic Irrigation.

Anna (List) Morris married Wittenberg graduate Scott Morris ('10) on November 26, 2011. She is a graduate assistant for the Office of Marketing and Communication at Edinboro University. Anna is working toward a Masters in Communication and will graduate this December. She also started her own freelance business, helping local small businesses with their social media, branding and integrated marketing.



Katie Nemeth is a graduate student in Communication at the University of Cincinnati. (See feature on p. 5.)

Maryam Rezayat is in her third year of law school at The Ohio State University.

Lauren Stets works in Fashion Merchandising as an Assistant Merchant in the Sleepwear division at Limited Brands in Columbus, OH. She married Andrew LaFollette in August 2011.

Andrea Young lives and works in Dayton, OH as a receptionist at Lamplight Inn.

Alumni News and Notes

2011

Ariel Andrews is enrolled at Carnegie Mellon University, working on her Master's in Entertainment Industry Management. After finishing her first year in Pittsburgh, the program moves to L.A., where she will complete the program by completing classes and internships at entertainment companies.

Meredith Berzins is Co-Executive Director of the Children's Rescue Center in Springfield, OH. (See feature on p. 22.)

Mark DeOliveira lives in Malibu, CA, and is the head coach of the Malibu High School lacrosse team, as well as the Director of Lacrosse Operations for the youth lacrosse program and a private coach. He also is a Production Assistant for Bain/Sills Productions. He has worked on Spike TV's "Guys Choice Awards" and Fox's "Teen Choice Awards."

Haily Hall is a Sales Assistant at Cox Reps in Los Angeles, CA. Haily is enjoying life in southern California; she has attended a party at an Emmy Award Winner's house, as well as some events at the Director's Guild Of America, where she got to see James Cameron.

Emily Shaw is a Field Organizer with Friends of Sherrod Brown in Columbus, OH.

Erin Steinberg is the Tour Manager in Columbus for the author and national speaker Hilary Corna, and her book, "One White Face."

2012

Nishant Makhija works for the Sherrod Brown campaign.

Jenna Montali is a Sales and Marketing Associate at JP Morgan in downtown Chicago.

Amber Reyes is an Integrated Marketing Consultant Manager for Univision in Hartford, CT.

Jenny Schaafsma is a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Missouri—Kansas City.

Hannah (Leguillon) Taphorn married Mark Taphorn on May 27, 2012. The couple resides in Cincinnati, OH.



Alumni, we want to hear from you!

One of the most common questions the faculty in the Department of Communication get asked by prospective students and majors is, "What can you do with a Communication major?" We like to answer that question by handing them this newsletter and inviting them to explore the many different interesting things our alumni are doing with their degree.

Please send us your news about where you are and what you're doing! We also appreciate photos – from your wedding, of your baby, at your job, etc. Please send all updates to our Alumni Liaison, Shelly Gregory ('13) for inclusion in the Alumni News and Notes section of next year's issue of "Links" (s13.mgregory@wittenberg.edu). Keep in touch!



Passing the Light on to Others: Meredith Berzins' ('11) Call To Serve

by Kailee Kratoville ('13)

Meet Meredith Berzins ('11), a recent graduate of the Communication program who has gone straight into working in the Springfield community as Co-Executive Director of Children's Rescue Center. Because of her hard work in her studies, she was able to graduate a year early and shortly thereafter, moved into a home in Springfield's Historic Restoration District on South Fountain Ave.

After having a short time to settle in, she went as trip leader for Dr. Scott Rosenberg's service trip to Lesotho, Africa—her second visit there—to donate her time for two months to work with Wittenberg students as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS. She made her impact on the students as being a kind and motivating mentor. After this experience abroad, she began settling into her new home with two other Wittenberg alumni and a close friend.



Meredith Berzins ('11) with community members in Lesotho, Africa

With her Communication degree and her experience within the Wittenberg community, Meredith transitioned into the position of Co-Executive Director of the Children's Rescue Center in Springfield. In this role, she says that her time in the Communication Department really paid off because the theoretical material she learned in the classroom is applicable to her job every day. Meredith acknowledges the importance of honest communication in her professional and personal life and now calls it "courageous communication."

"I have realized that communication is the root of most problems, and the key to solving most problems, too."

Her time in the Communication program helped her to recognize that communication is imperative to her everyday life. "I have realized that communication is the root of most problems and the key to solving most problems, too. Talk about a double-edged sword!" At the Children's Rescue Center, Meredith is working with people who come from

different backgrounds, classes, and generations, which she approaches by adapting her modes of communication and using what she learned at Wittenberg University.

Berzins is staying involved in the Springfield community by participating in the Fourth Annual Clark County Dancing with the Celebrities (see story on p. 25).

Passing the Light on to Others: Hannah Powell's ('03) Passion for Education

by Erin Egan ('12)

After graduating with a B.A. in Communication, Hannah Powell ('03) joined Teach for America. As a member of the organization she taught sixth and seventh grade full time while simultaneously getting her Master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

Her Communication background proved to be extremely helpful in working towards her education degree due to the Communication Department's "rigorous curriculum" that taught her vital skills such as researching, writing, application techniques, and time management. It was a challenge for Powell to complete an advanced degree while teaching full time. "But I feel blessed to have built a skill set while at Wittenberg that set me up for success," she says.

Powell also notes that her Communication degree left her feeling "well prepared for [the] awesome challenge and opportunity" that Teach for America provided. Upon completing her commitment at Teach for America, Powell began working as the Director of Education Services at an Ohio-based charter management organization where she succeeded in increasing the reading levels of the students in her first year. She was also able to help the school move up a rank in the State Accountability System and exceeded state growth expectations for language arts and math. In 2008, Powell joined the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) where she served as a school leader until 2011.

"I feel blessed to have built a skill set while at Wittenberg that set me up for success."

In 2011, Powell was asked by the KIPP Board of Directors to become the Executive Director of KIPP Central Ohio, and Powell accepted the position. Powell feels her knowledge of communication has been a fundamental part of her success at KIPP, most notably the public speaking course she took because it is something her job requires daily.

Powell is able to apply the skills and knowledge she accumulated from her four years at Wittenberg regularly. However, Powell says she is most grateful not only for what she learned in the classroom, but what she learned about herself through her college experience.

"I developed the courage and insight to follow my calling in life," said Powell, who spoke about finding her light and her passion for educating inner-city children at the Women in Leadership Luncheon on September 6 celebrating the inauguration of Wittenberg's first woman President, Dr. Laurie Joyner.



Powell and husband Todd Tuney

The Experience at Comic-Con

By Alissa Armstrong ('13)

Where can you get up-close and personal with your favorite television stars? Where can you gain firsthand experience at conducting ethnographic research? The Experience at Comic-Con is unlike any other course you would take in a typical undergraduate setting and it allows students to experience research in the field.

Students who apply and are accepted into the five-day program have the opportunity to enjoy programming on comic books, video games, and film while at the same time examining the interplay between fans and marketing techniques. In the past, students have had the chance to see comic book legends such as Stan Lee, film stars like Nathan Fillion and the cast of "Trueblood," and numerous other popular culture icons.

Students have had the chance to see comic book legends such as Stan Lee, film stars like Nathan Fillion and the cast of "Trueblood."

For the seventh consecutive year, Dr. Matthew J. Smith led a group of students to Comic-Con International in July 2012. The Experience takes place in scenic San Diego and allows students to explore the latest in television, film, and comics, while examining their producers as media industries. While attending the Con, participants in the program stay at the University of San Diego, which was recently ranked among the most beautiful college campuses in the United States according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

After almost a week of engaging with participants and observing the programming, students get the opportunity to communicate their preliminary findings in a presentation at the Comics Arts Conference, an academic program held in conjunction with Comic-Con.

This past summer, ten students from nine different institutions of higher education representing three countries (Canada, India and the United States) attended Comic-Con alongside Dr. Smith. Visit www.powerofcomics.com/fieldstudy/ for more information about this innovative field study experience.



Students from the 2012 Experience at Comic Con



Wittenberg Students at the 2011 Experience at Comic Con

Comm Alumna Meredith Berzins ('11) is a Local Dancing Celebrity

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

Communication alumna Meredith Berzins ('11) is a Clark County celebrity! Well, she is dancing like one, at least. Berzins, an employee at the Clark County Children's Rescue Center, volunteered to participate in Dancing with Clark County Celebrities to raise support for the Children's Rescue Center along with six other local non-profit organizations.

"Dancing with Clark County Celebrities" is a local version of *Dancing with the Stars*, the popular television show on ABC currently on its 14th season. Similarly to the show, local Clark County "stars" are paired with dancers to learn and perform a dance. It's not as easy as it sounds.

"I have been dancing for about two months so far...it's going," said Berzins. "I am having a lot of fun with it, I'm just not super coordinated!"

Berzins has little formal dance experience, only the tap and ballet classes she took in grade school.



Berzins at Dancing with Clark County Celebrities

"Because I have never been much of a dancer, I laughed off people's suggestions [to apply for Dancing with Clark County Celebrities] until the day before the applications were due," said Berzins.

The day before applications were due, Dancing with Clark County Celebrities called the Children's Rescue Center and Berzins decided to apply. She was selected soon thereafter.

Berzins took home the Audience Choice award from the 2012 Dancing with Clark County Celebrities. Congratulations, Meredith!

Visit www.dancingclarkcelebrities.com for more information about this event.

Communication Majors Earn High Awards at the 2012 Honors Convocation

Tyler Hall ('12) was awarded our department's highest honor, Laurels in Communication. (See feature on p. 31.)

Trevor Grandy ('13) was awarded the Alma Lux, and **Shelly Gregory** ('13) was a finalist for the Alma Mater.

Julia Devine ('14) was named to the Ivy Ring and the Pick and Pen recognition societies.

Shelly Gregory ('13) is a new member of Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa, national honor societies.

Charidy Murphy ('13) was named to Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Jessie Batanian ('13) and **Trevor Grandy** ('13) were named to Chi Alpha Sigma.

New inductees to Gamma Sigma Alpha include **Trevor Grandy** ('13), **Erin Harte** ('13), **Bonnie Hupp** ('12), and **Will Krueger** ('13).

Tyler Hall ('12) was recognized as having a 4.0 GPA for the past two semesters.

Lauren Harris ('12) and **Hannah Leguillon** ('12) were recognized as earning University Honors.

Hannah Leguillon ('12) also was welcomed into Phi Beta Kappa.

Tyler Hall ('12) was awarded the Clarence C. Stoughton Scholarship as one of the 2011-2012 Presidential Scholars.

Additionally, four Communication majors serve as officers on Student Senate:

Shelly Gregory ('13) is Student Senate President.

Swati Shivshankar ('13) is the American International Association Senator.

Meghann Greene ('13) was elected to the position of Athletics Senator.

Jane Tsvitse ('13) serves as the Off-Campus Senator.



Alma Lux Trevor Grandy ('13) and Alma Mater Hillary Hassink ('13; Biology major)

Broz Receives Award for Excellence in Teaching

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

This past spring, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication, Dr. Stefne Broz was awarded Wittenberg University's 2012 Provost's Collegium Award for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching. This award recognizes outstanding teaching as well as a faculty member's commitment to growing and improving as a teaching scholar. It is also the only award given by faculty to faculty.

Broz's focus on "bringing scholarly theory and research to life" for her students is manifested in the classroom, where she brings media examples for students to observe and relate to the topic at hand, and in course assignments such as a health promotion campaign project.



Dr. Broz in Tokyo with her Japan Field Study students

"I was thrilled to learn I had been selected as this year's recipient," said Broz. "I did not expect the announcement would be coming for another week, so it was particularly surprising and exciting."

Dr. Broz was nominated by a faculty colleague, and then the Faculty Development Board selected and invited several finalists to submit portfolios, which included a statement of teaching philosophy, course syllabi and assignments, student and peer evaluations of teaching, and other materials. Several Communication alumni wrote letters of support, which also were included among the submitted materials. The Board selected Broz as this year's recipient based on their assessment of her portfolio.

Since joining the faculty in 2002, Broz has developed seven new courses at Wittenberg. She took Japanese language courses and attended the Freeman Institute for Infusing Japan Studies into the Curriculum in Hawaii in 2006. From these experiences she became a contributor to the East Asian Studies program, introducing a new course "Japanese Communication and Culture," and creating a new field study in Japan.

"As an award that is given by my faculty colleagues, this is an especially humbling recognition," said Broz. She was recognized for this award as part of the Opening Convocation this fall. The Department of Communication congratulates Dr. Broz on this honor!

They're Talking About Us: What Our Graduates Say...

"The Communication Department at Wittenberg University taught me how to learn and was a major contributor to my maturity and success after graduation. It also helped me understand the meaning of hard work from an academic perspective, and how to truly invest yourself in each piece of material that you learn."
- David Fleenor ('06)

"The program improved my writing skills as well as my ability to think critically."
- Katie Nemeth ('10)

"The Communication program at Wittenberg really prepared me to be a creative and critical thinker when solving problems."
- Emily Hiscar ('06)

"Who knew that those difficult research classes would be so valuable for a future career in Market Research?"
- Erin (Bonner) Kennedy ('04)

"I use the skills I learned in all of my Communication classes every day at work—without even noticing most of the time. Using effective communication is extremely important in order to ensure proper execution of events and all logistics. Sometimes I stop and think about theories that I studied in Interpersonal Communication or Gender and Communication and realize that I am putting them into practice and even proving their validity. On top of all my Comm classes, my professional experience with Comm Leaders really gave me the extra push in the right direction and prepared me even more for life after college. I miss the Comm Department and Wittenberg more and more as the years go by, but I definitely take what I learned over the four years and apply it to my every day life. Having Light, We Pass It On To Others is a motto that will forever be with me." - Andrea Lauer ('09)

"The Communication degree turned my mind upside down / inside out and allowed me to think differently, more effectively, efficiently and provided structure without constraints."
- Angela (Trego) Crist ('04)

"What can you do with a Communication major? Anything, everything. A degree in Communication may not pencil you into a specific profession, but in any business having a professional grasp on communication sets you apart from all others."
- Justin Howard ('05)

"The theories help me understand why people do what they do."
- Kristen (Scheerer) Gebhart ('03)

"Our program completely changed how I apply myself in a professional setting."
- Jocelin Baker ('08)

"I was recently writing a paper for one of my graduate classes and had an APA formatting question. Because of Dr. Broz's extensive knowledge with APA, I sent her a quick email, asking for help. And, of course, she responded promptly. It's nice to know that I can still call on my undergrad professors for help. I don't think I would have received this sort of attention, as an alum, at any other institution. I'm thankful I was able to attend a school with more individualized attention, which would lead into the experience I had just the other day as an alum. Thanks again, Dr. Broz." - Jade Chivington ('10)

A Professor's Passion for Research by Shelly Gregory ('13)

With a variety of research ranging from her popular "spit study" to her Facebook studies, Dr. Katie Warber, Assistant Professor of Communication, is constantly "studying."

Since arriving in the fall of 2007, Warber has been hard at work conducting research of all types, but her main focus is research on relationships. At any given time she has about four studies being conducted.

"I'm a feast-and-famine kind of researcher. I do a lot of research, but then submit a bunch of studies all at once, rather than publishing slowly over time," said Warber.

Despite her current love of research, Warber thought she would be a geneticist growing up. Her love of research grew out of timing and circumstance. With terrible asthma and originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, doctors highly recommended Warber move to a different climate to help with her asthma. Arizona's climate was recommended, so Warber moved out west to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Arizona.

"U of A is a quantitative, research-intensive department, thus, I became a researcher," said Warber. "I had amazing professors who really engaged me in research early in graduate school, as well as peers who were very supportive in the graduate school environment."

Since arriving at Wittenberg, Warber has conducted her own research as well as aided students with their research. In 2007, Warber worked with Kari Phelan ('07) on her senior honors thesis, which looked at retaliation strategies girls use when faced with social aggression. She also worked with Lukas Treu ('09) on his honors thesis which explored perceptions of corporate credibility related to environmentalism. More recently, Warber has collaborated with Dana Makstaller ('12) and Jenny Schaafsma ('12), who both took their research to the National Communication Association conference in 2011.

"The relationships I've formed with people over the course of my life continue to be a focal point for me when it comes to gauging my own success as a researcher"

Warber is in the process of working on a variety of Facebook studies with Dr. Jesse Fox, Assistant Professor of Communication at The Ohio State University. Currently, she is working with Fox on what she calls the "spit study."

"This study is certainly the one that has challenged me most," said Warber.

The research takes a bio-psycho-social approach to understanding communication in interpersonal relationships and looks at the biological implications of our communication behaviors.

At the end of the day, Warber is still a self-proclaimed "relationships girl."

"The relationships I've formed with people over the course of my life continue to be a focal point for me when it comes to gauging my own success as a researcher," said Warber. "Collaboration is really important to me. The relationships I form in the process of conducting research mean far more to me than the research itself."



Dr. Warber introduces Jenny Schaafsma at the Spring 2012 Communication Colloquium

A Note from the Department Chair

Greetings to our alumni, current and prospective students, and everyone else who has paused to peruse our Department of Communication newsletter!

As you can tell from the contents of this booklet, there are many exciting things going on within and beyond our program. We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting experiences and successes of our alumni and students. It makes a department chair very proud to know that the people who we've had the privilege of knowing are doing such important and gratifying work. Given the many different kinds of careers our graduates are able to pursue, it's not surprising that this past spring marked a record number of declared Communication majors.

Many thanks to our alumni for keeping us posted on what you're up to! We love reading about the fulfilling work you're doing with your Communication degree! We especially appreciate our alumni coming back to visit us, and this past year several alumni came and spoke with current students about their work.

Regardless of the nature of your connection to the Department of Communication, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, news or updates, or just want to chat! I can be reached at sbroz@wittenberg.edu

Sincerely,
Dr. Stefne Lenzmeier Broz, Chair, Department of Communication



Drs. Dudek, Warber, Broz, and Gimenez-Berger enjoying a Columbus Crew soccer match

Welcome, President Laurie Joyner!

The inauguration of Dr. Laurie M. Joyner on Friday, September 7th as Wittenberg's 14th president had strong connections to the Department of Communication. Dr. Catherine Waggoner and Shelly Gregory ('13) were provided opening remarks to Dr. Joyner on behalf of the faculty and student body. Dr. Waggoner's remarks focused on recognizing the achievements of the incredible faculty at Wittenberg and welcoming Dr. Joyner on behalf of the entire faculty. Gregory introduced Joyner to the active and involved student body and welcomed her to the campus family on behalf of the entire study body.



Thank You for Your Support!

The Department of Communication would like to thank those alumni who have given back to the program since graduating from Wittenberg. We are moved by your acts of generosity and the kind words you send to us as you reflect fondly on your time in the Communication program.

The Wittenberg Fund provides financial support for virtually every purpose and function of the Wittenberg learning community. Contributions provide sustaining support for academic, scholarship, cultural and athletic programs; faculty retention and recruitment; campus renewal and beautification; and other department programs and initiatives. Your gift makes the difference in the lives of current and future students, so support the Wittenberg community by making a gift today at www.wittenberg.edu/give

Should you choose to give financially to Wittenberg, you may designate your gift for the Department of Communication. Thank you for supporting your alma mater!

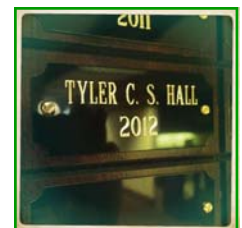


2012 Communication Laureate: Tyler Hall



Established in 2005, the *Laurels in Communication* award is intended to honor one Communication major who has distinguished him- or herself while at Wittenberg. Specifically, this award recognizes an outstanding Communication major who has embodied the highest ideals of academic and ethical excellence. This year's Laureate, Tyler Hall, has proven himself to be precisely the kind of student this award was intended to honor.

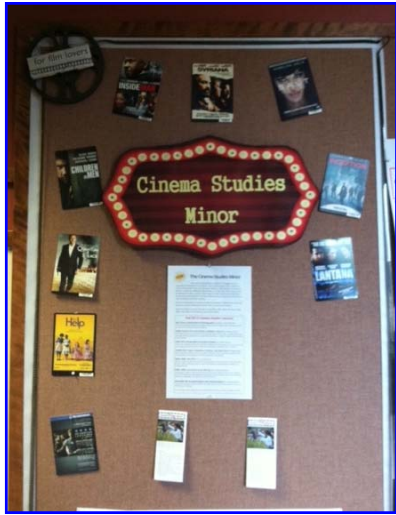
Congratulations,
Tyler!



32 Introducing the Cinema Studies Minor

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

The newly-created Cinema Studies minor is a result of the hard work and collaboration Dr. Matthew Smith has put forth in creating an interdisciplinary program and opportunity to study film and television as art forms. The Cinema Studies minor requires a total of 20 semester hours in a variety of departments including English, Art and Communication.



A bulletin board in Hollenbeck Hall displays information about the Cinema Studies minor

Inspiration for the creation of the Cinema Studies minor was actually just bringing forth the efforts of faculty and courses that were already being taught.

“Administration had identified cinema as a possible program to nurture and faculty have taught cinema courses at this university for years,” said Smith. “Basically, all the pieces were there, just not packaged yet.”

So Smith began work with a committee of faculty to bring Cinema Studies into focus, and thus the minor was created.

The program offers advanced study of theory, genre, national and international film, film history and other topics relevant to filmmaking

as an art form and industry. As part of the requirements for the minor, at least one course must emphasize the historical development of cinema, and at least one course must emphasize aesthetic analysis.

Faculty teaching courses in the Cinema Studies minor include Dr. Fernando Blanco, Dr. Scott Hinson, Dr. Robin Inboden and Dr. Matthew Smith. Some of the fascinating courses offered this fall that count toward the minor include:

- ART 241A: Introduction to Photography (*Professor Dan McInnis*)
- CHIN 151A/C: Film and Fiction in Modern China (*Dr. Shelley Chan*)
- CINE 200: Introduction to Cinema Studies (*Dr. Scott Hinson*)
- COMM 350: Topic — Cinephiles, Fanboys, and Geek Girls (*Dr. Matt Smith*)
- ENGL 180A: Film Noir (*Dr. Scott Hinson*)
- ENGL 180A: Jane Goes to the Movies (*Dr. Robin Inboden*)
- SPAN 263F: Film & Social Change in Latin America & Spain (*Dr. Fernando Blanco*)

Three Comm Majors Contribute to Volleyball National Championship Victory

33

By Shelly Gregory ('13)



From left: Sumner, Batanian, and Gilene

The Department of Communication congratulates three special members of the championship women's volleyball team: Communication majors Jessie Batanian ('13), Christina Gilene ('13), and Katie Sumner ('12). These student-athletes have had an incredible journey using the skills they've acquired in the classroom and applying them to interactions with their teammates and even members of the media.

“Communication has helped me to be more comfortable around people,” said Gilene, senior. “I have realized that when talking to other peers, adults, or even giving interviews after a big volleyball game, I am able to get through what I need to say in a professional manner and not have any setbacks.”

Batanian echoed the sentiments of Gilene, saying that a Communication major has helped her with interacting with others. “A Communication degree has helped me perform as a better teammate by how I now have an understanding of group communication, as well as a background in interpersonal relationships,” said Batanian, senior.

Team captain Katie Sumner ('12) says that her Communication degree has prepared her to give speeches after winning the championship.

“Communication is one of the most important things on our volleyball team”

“We are a team that keeps everyone in the loop, including the coaches, so communication is one of the most important things on our volleyball team,” said Sumner. “Classes in the Communication Department have prepared me for speeches I would have to give, especially after winning a National Championship.”

These women are not only exceptional athletes; they are exceptional students. Balancing the demands of the classroom with the requirements of being a student athlete can be particularly challenging, but these women have managed both.

“The professors are also great about us missing class,” added Gilene. “They are very understanding and it is so easy to meet with them during their office hours so they can help us get on the right track.”

Congratulations again to the Women's Volleyball team for bringing home the NCAA Division III Championship!

Integrated Media Corps: Providing Valuable Media Production Experience

by Liz Guyer ('13)

Integrated Media Corps (IMC) provides an outstanding opportunity for students to learn the intricacies and challenges of creating media for consumers in a paid internship setting. After submitting applications and going through a competitive interviewing process, 19 students were invited to join the ranks for the 2012-2013 academic year, almost double from the ten students who participated in the 2011-2012 academic year.



The 2012-2013 Corps members, back row from left: Tyson Agler ('14), Meghann Greene ('13), Will Krueger ('13), Kelcie Webster ('14), Savannah Guyer ('13), Charidy Murphy, Graham Wolff ('13), and Jordyn Baker ('14). Front row from left: Megan Conkle ('14), Julia Devine ('14), Kristi Burkitt ('13), Brynne Mayne ('13), Quin Gable ('14), Caity Valley ('13), and Breanne Ziegler ('13). Not pictured: Trevor Grandy ('13) and Ryan Smith ('13).

In the past, IMC members have had exceptional opportunities to meet with professionals in the business.



One memorable presentation was given by Ron Haviv, a world renowned photojournalist who visited Wittenberg for a Witt series event but spent an hour discussing challenges and successes with the IMC team.

Integrated Media Corps is not just another campus job, it is an internship experience. In addition to work hours and staff meetings, students perform a final presentation demonstrating all that they've done over the course of the year. Students gain valuable field experience and learn to think on their feet while being encouraged to seek out individual paths that are tailored to their post-graduation aspirations.



"IMC helped me realize all the details I need to know so that I may be successful in the media field," said Brynne Mayne ('13), second year Corps member interested in broadcast journalism.

IMC is providing its members with experiences and opportunities they can't gain from any other group or organization on campus. These students will graduate from the program with real-world skills they



Top photo: Clark Goodman ('12) and Christian Stringer ('12) work at a men's basketball game. Middle: Trevor Grandy ('13) films commencement. Bottom: The 2011-2012 Integrated Media Corps after their final presentation.

Internships Give Comm Students Valuable Hands-On Experience

by Shelly Gregory ('13)

Communication majors at Wittenberg are strongly encouraged to complete an internship as part of their liberal arts education. These hands-on experiential learning opportunities give them a distinct advantage when it comes time to seek employment after graduation. Here are just a few of the internships Communication majors completed for academic credit this past spring and summer:

- **Tyson Agler ('14)** interned at 103.1 WNDH radio in Napoleon, OH. Some of his accomplishments include airing a special where he interviewed local college athletes, including Elliot Mealer who has been featured on ESPN's "E-60." He also helped generate the Sports Trivia Question of the Day, reported a press conference and was in charge of reporting the afternoon sports for two weeks.
- **Stephanie Davis ('13)** was a programming intern for Clear Channel in Chicago, IL. She worked in the studios, selected and edited music for radio stations such as WGCI, V103, and 1390AM. She helped schedule appointments for Music Mondays, gave her opinion on what songs should be played on the station, and met several artists who stopped by the studios.
- **Liz Guyer ('13)** worked as a Media Relations Intern over the summer at the California State Expo. She designed the program for the event and worked on a wide variety of other media-related projects for the state fair, including facilitating press coverage of exhibits and events.
- **Shelly Gregory ('13)** was both the General Manager of WUSO and the Director of Publicity for the Department of Communication over the last year. Gregory created flyers, posters, wrote press releases and content for the Department website; she also initiated a series of Senior Spotlight videos for YouTube and updated the Department's Facebook page.
- **Erin Harte ('13)** interned at Hafenbrack Marketing and Genessa Health Marketing in Dayton, OH, where she was in charge of social media for clients and generating online interest.
- **Emily Mills ('13)** worked in the Volunteer Resources division for the City of Dublin, OH. She trained and managed volunteer recruitment for Independence Day and the annual Dublin Irish Festival, recruiting over 1,500 volunteers.



*If your company is hiring interns, please let
Wittenberg's Career Services know!
Send position descriptions to careers@wittenberg.edu*

Department of Communication Faculty Awards and Accomplishments



Dr. Stefne Broz was awarded the new Wittenberg Collegium Award for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching in the Spring of 2012, an honor bestowed by the Faculty Development Board. She has served as Editor of the *Ohio Communication Journal* for the past four years, and she is currently conducting research for a book on Japanese culture and communication. 2011-12 was her second year serving as Chair of the Department of Communication, a role that she enjoys.

Dr. Sheryl Cunningham continues her research in rhetoric and politics. Her chapter on Nancy Pelosi and the trope of motherhood in partisan and mainstream media will appear in an edited book titled *Monster, Mate, Mommy: Media Depictions of Women As Brides, Wives, and Mothers*. Additionally, this year she published an article entitled, "Is now the time?: Divergent Discourses in the Pro-life Movement Regarding Ohio HB 125" in the scholarly journal *Peitho*.

Dr. Matthew Smith continues to co-direct the successful Integrated Media Corps internship experience (see story on p. 23). He also chaired the Cinema Studies Working Group that developed the new Cinema Studies minor (see story on p. 32). He coordinated efforts of faculty from Departments of Communication, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and History from 2010 until the proposal passed in 2012. In addition to his coauthored book being nominated for a prestigious award (see note on p. 11), he also published chapters in three edited books: *Superman Through the Ages: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times*; *Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes & Superheroes*, and *Theorien des Comics: Ein Reader*.

Department of Communication Faculty Awards and Accomplishments

Dr. Catherine Waggoner took nine Wittenberg students on an Alternative Spring Break Trip for service to the Mississippi Delta in March (see story on p. 8). For this trip, she organized cultural experiences at various sites (e.g., University of Mississippi and Civil War site). She also continues to pursue a cultural study of that area, including interviewing Delta women about their identities as "Southern" women and the role that myths of the South play in that identity construction. This spring Dr. Waggoner also published an essay on "The Power of Telling Stories" in the Wittenberg publication *Chalk: Teaching & Faculty Development*.

Dr. Katie Warber continues to direct the Communication Leaders program (see story on pp. 12-13) and advise the Communication honorary Lambda Pi Eta (see story on p. 10). She also was nominated for the Community Service award at Wittenberg this past spring. She published seven scholarly articles over the past academic year, three of which were coauthored by a current or former Wittenberg student; of her six presentations at academic conferences this year, four were coauthored with a current student. She also was invited to give lectures at University of Arizona and Albion University.



Drs. Katie Warber, Sheryl Cunningham, Stefne Broz, Matthew Smith, & Catherine Waggoner

Congratulations, Class of 2012!



Class Motto:
"Hakuna Matata"
(There are no worries)

