

Links

Connecting Alumni,
Students, and Faculty

Wittenberg University
Department of Communication
Newsletter

2017

Photo Credit: Wittenberg University Office of Communications

1122 Family Auditorium

Greetings from the Alumni Liaison

Jessica Walters ('18)

I hope you enjoy this edition of Links, our annual Department of Communication newsletter!

The Links staff have been hard at work getting this newsletter underway. The writers this year were inspired by the alumni they spoke with and were dedicated to sharing their stories for others to hear.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you find the journeys that so many of these individuals are on not only interesting, but compelling. Wittenberg is a special place in which many of us have found our identity, our calling, and our true vocation in life.

I am grateful for the resources I have to embark into the world ahead, and for such amazing steps to follow. May our light keep passing on!

Thank you to the alumni and their dedication to honoring Wittenberg and the Department of Communication. Your stories are vital to making our program what it is.

Lastly, I want to send out a huge congratulations to the graduating class of 2017!

Tiger Up, Witt!



*Alumni Liaison Intern,
Jessica Walters ('18)*

2017 Links Staff Writers

Devon Atchison ('19)
Pearl Ernat ('17)
Ryan Fulmer ('18)
Stephanie Glass ('17)
Kate Koelling ('17)
Remington Larsen ('18)
Kylie Ponn ('18)
Sami Petruzzi ('18)
Allie Purvis ('19)
Evelyn Ritzi ('17)
Nicholas Tafoya ('18)
Macy Winkelfoos ('17)

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Communication Alumni Return to Campus for Homecoming 2016



Communication alumni spanning more than ten years stopped by at various Homecoming events to catch up and share about their journeys. Kelly Eggers ('09) and Beth Thomas ('13) were panelists for two of the Celebration of Lifelong Learning sessions where current students could learn more about how to take advantage of opportunities at Witt, how to prepare for their professional lives, and how to navigate their career paths. The Department of Communication sponsored a tailgate event to bring our alumni together for some Tiger spirit before the game on Saturday. Current and former CABLE members gathered to celebrate the program's 10th anniversary.

2016-2017 Integrated Media Corps

Devon Atchison ('19)

Integrated Media Corps (IMC) is a program at Wittenberg that, on paper, is a one-credit course along with work hours in the Office of University Communications. But to me it has been so much more than that. IMC has opened me up to a world of possibilities within media, communications, graphic design, television, radio, and marketing. These opportunities have helped me learn more about my future career and equipped me with new skill sets.



*IMC with a WHIO Stormcenter 7 Meteorologist
From left to right: Morgan Mitchell, Devon Atchison, McCall Vrydaghs (Meteorologist), Bobbie Clayton, Stephanie Glass, Jeff Hall, Kylie Ponn, Savannah Marceau, and Camila Quinones.*

The work we do in the University Office of Communications includes working at our own computers and cubicles with various up-to-date technology and software. This allows us to have hands-on training that is relatable to the real workplace. With the resources and mentorship we have access to, we are able to gain valuable experiences that better prepare us for our future. I have been able to become familiar with different technology that I know will give me a one-up in the workforce. In the office, there are Macs and PCs available to work on, which allows the opportunity to learn more about both operating systems. There is also Microsoft, Adobe, Premiere Pro, and many other types of software that are quite useful skill sets to be proficient in, especially in such a technology-driven world.

IMC also allows us access to knowledgeable mentors. We work directly with the University Office of Communications and under Cindy Holbrook, Senior Communication Assistant, and Ryan Maurer, Senior Writer and Web Communications Specialist. It is with their collaboration and guidance that we are able to grow.

Another aspect of IMC is that each member has a specific project to work on. However, they're not for a grade and they're not just an assignment; they really mean something to us personally and mean something to the community. Project requests come in from the community and since there is a large number, we only do the ones that we are able to do. It is great that in addition to learning these important skill sets, I get to learn about different events and issues within the Springfield community as well.

In the beginning of the year, we focused on broader topics and heard from multiple speakers from different fields. It started off as a broader and more all-inclusive view so we could see where we may want to dive in deeper. In the second half of the year we honed in on an interest area and began to apply certain topics and ideas.

IMC has given me a taste of many different fields, a taste of what it is to work in a workplace, and what it means to be a team member. IMC has been a fantastic experience and has meant a lot more to me than just another program on campus. It has helped me to begin shaping my future career, and allowed me to see the importance of mentorship, and the value in embracing community.

Big Risks Means Big Rewards:

Megan Shroy ('07)

Stephanie Glass ('17)

Recently honored in Columbus' Forty Under 40, Megan Shroy ('07), founder and president of Approach Marketing, is an accomplished and driven PR and marketing professional. Following graduation, Shroy began an internship program with Golin, one of the world's leading public relations firms. Although she had hoped for a full-time position, Shroy knew Golin's legendary internship program was an opportunity she could not pass up. The program offered an immersive experience that would shed light on the areas Shroy was interested in within the marketing industry. One of Shroy's biggest tips for recent graduates who are hoping to break out in the public relations world is to "intern early and often." Shroy asserts that "it's rare to see an entry-level candidate resume without three or more varied internships today." Shroy herself used internships, notably the post-grad experience at Golin, to mold her true interests within the marketing industry that have ultimately shaped her career path.



Megan Shroy ('17)

Shroy comes from an agency background that began with Golin, which eventually led her to Columbus-based Paul Werth Associates. After a few years of agency work, Shroy "identified a demand in the industry," specifically that "clients still needed access to top PR and marketing talent, but could no longer afford the agency overhead and large retainer-based relationships." Although Shroy was only 26 when she founded Approach Marketing, the business model of bringing independent consultants together to staff accounts of all sizes has proved itself to be incredibly successful, as Approach has doubled in size every year since its founding in 2010. "Starting a business in my twenties felt really risky," Shroy acknowledged, but now feels that high business growth, such as having 20 people on the payroll at any given time, feels even riskier. As the business continues to expand, Shroy expresses the importance of workplace culture, value proposition, and adapting to the challenges of an ever-changing market.

During her time at Wittenberg, Shroy acknowledged that the most valuable lessons were often learned outside of the classroom. These lessons remain relevant to the Wittenberg experience: "Work hard, play hard. Relationships matter. It's not always about what you know, but who you know. Keep things in perspective. Prioritize what's important."

Within the communication department, Shroy's most lasting experience was participating in Wittenberg's Communication Leadership program (now C.A.B.L.E.). Her pivotal moment was during a "visit to Chicago with fellow students, during which we participated in informational interviews with area businesses, experienced various roles within a company, and presented at Google's office." Shroy felt that the visit developed her expectations for the "real world" and motivated her "to look for opportunity in every corner and find ways to demonstrate [her] capabilities as a potential employee and leader." Regardless of industry or job description, Shroy insists that "being an effective communicator is a skill that will set you apart." Based on her proven success and impressive accomplishments, we'll take her word for it.

Keep things in perspective. Prioritize what's important.

India's Top Digital Brand Planner:

Swati Shivshankar ('13)

Kylie Ponn ('18)

Swati Shivshankar ('13) is a recent Wittenberg graduate already making big strides in her field as a senior brand planner and strategist in India. A Double major in Economics and Communication, Shivshankar dedicates a lot of her success to the Wittenberg education and leadership skills that come with it.

Witt really taught me to be kind to people. It taught me to help people without expecting anything in return.

Shivshankar was involved in many extracurricular opportunities aside from her studies during her time at Wittenberg: Student Senate, Class Cabinet, and the American International Association. But she shares that one of the best learning experiences was Comm Leaders, now C.A.B.L.E., which helped her land two critical internships for post college life. Because of visa complications, those opportunities didn't work out, but she says, "I still take a lot away from the project I did with Google which was related to my field of social media and branding, while it was only a six-to-eight month project, the experience I gained was timeless." Currently, Shivshankar works in the digital advertising industry and she shares that everything she learned at Wittenberg is "still applicable."

Shivshankar is currently employed by Ogilvy & Mather as Senior Brand Planner and Strategist, working for the company for close to three years now. Many of the accounts her company works with are major Unilever companies like Dove. Just recently she was awarded and recognized as one of the "Top 30 Under 30 India" and "India's Top Digital Brand Planners - Rising Star," both very prestigious recognitions.

Aside from her work, Shivshankar pursues Indian music when she has free time. "I love to sing, so it's something I do on the side."

Reflecting on her time at Wittenberg, Shivshankar shares how Witt has prepared her for the real world: "Of course, Witt gave me an incredible education and taught me how to be a leader. But it taught me something bigger I think."



Swati Shivshankar ('13)

She says that with no family in America, no friends, and coming all the way from India without visiting the campus, it was all a huge gamble. But from the moment she stepped foot on campus, she was welcomed by all. "I have never seen so many people go out of their way to make sure I was okay. Witt really taught me to be kind to people. It taught me to help people without expecting anything in return." Shivshankar says "Kindness is more valuable than anything else. Especially in today's world where no one has time and it is so cut-throat, a little kindness and a smile goes a long way."

6 **Work Hard and Enjoy What you Do:**
Merrick Austin ('11)
Remington Larsen ('18)



Merrick Austin ('11)

Merrick Austin is a proud example of Wittenberg excellence. A native of central Ohio, and graduate from Westerville Central High School, Merrick graduated from Wittenberg in 2011 with a major in Communication. During his senior year, Merrick took internships with the Columbus Clippers, Nationwide Insurance, and a staffing/recruiting agency where he received his first employment after college. Merrick ultimately decided to transition into an alternative field of work, and began his employment at JP Morgan Chase as an entry level specialist in debit card fraud. After receiving a promotion to Business Analyst, Merrick was then promoted to his first managerial position as a credit card fraud Supervisor of a team of 22 employees.

He was later promoted to a Mortgage Banking Correspondence Associate position, where he supervised a team of Editors who were responsible for editing letters that would be sent out to Chase mortgage customers. The drastic improvement of the team's performance earned Merrick his current position as a Performance Manager at a Chase corporate office in Columbus.

Merrick now supervises a team of eight specialists that he is currently developing into managers, while also overseeing the performance of the Columbus mortgage service site. As part of his position, Merrick is also in charge of the department's *Positive Work Environment* campaign. Merrick finds this position particularly gratifying because he is, essentially, responsible for helping to construct a work environment that both enhances the employee's work experience, as well as increases their incentive for productivity. Whether it be providing the staff with a variety of fun/relaxing activities during break time, planning holiday parties, or coming up with monthly performance rewards for staff members worthy of acknowledgment, Merrick's unique position is instrumental in cultivating the rewarding culture associated with JP Morgan Chase.

On a day-to-day basis, Merrick said that his "managerial position requires [him] to employ many of the fundamental communication skills that [he] learned and developed during [his] studies here at Wittenberg." His participation in the CABLE program also jumpstarted his professional success. Despite all of his position advancements, or his overall success working for Chase, what I found to be most inspiring about my conversation with Merrick was simply that he enjoys going to work every day. In that sense, Merrick has achieved the greatest career accomplishment of them all, which is finding a profession that he genuinely enjoys.

My managerial position requires me to employ many of the fundamental communication skills that I've learned and developed during my studies at Wittenberg.

7 **Liberal Arts in Action 2017:**
A Celebration of Learning

On **Friday, April 7th**, the following Communication majors participated in the annual Celebration of Learning event:

Emily Aurigemma ('17) - What are They Really Saying? Humor as a means of Social Critique

Adam Barstow ('17) - The Divergent Consequences of Secret Societies

Jade Brown ('17) - PR with a Purpose

Mackenzie Cameron ('18) - Responding to Emotional Trauma: A Fantasy-Theme Critique

Bobbie Clayton ('17) - Integrating Metaphor and Ideological Criticism: *Remember the Titans*

Pearl Ernat ('17) - Wilt PR: A Public Relations Internship Experience

Stephanie Glass ('17) - Not Just Fun and Games: Feminism in *Parks and Recreation*

Courtney Huck ('17) - Embedded and Unilateral Journalists: How the 2003 Iraq War was Framed

Sutton Jacobs ('19) - Kent State Massacre: Through the Eyes of New Media

Hannah Kesig ('18) - All the Good: A Critical Analysis Using Ideological Criticism

Thaddeus Kimm ('17) - Social Media and its Application: 1929 Stock Market Crash

Evelyn Ritzi ('17) - Woodstock: Three Days of Peace and Music...and Tweets?

Asha Toure ('17) - The Watts Riots Represented on Social Media

Caitlyn Traylor ('17) - WDTN Dayton 2 News: A Media Internship Experience

Members of Dr. Dillon's COMM 350 course - How the press and public would use social media to cover historical 20th century events.

CABLE - A summary of their work so far this semester.

The **Integrated Media Corps** - A multimedia showcase of their work on various campus events and initiatives.



Thaddeus Kimm ('17)



Mackenzie Cameron ('18)



Evelyn Ritzi ('17)

8 Experiences Make You Who You Are:
Andrew Durbin ('12)
Ryan Fulmer ('18)



Andrew Durbin ('12)

Whether it was on the football field or in the classroom, Andrew Durbin, 2012 Wittenberg graduate, has used the lessons he learned as a student athlete to excel in life after college by becoming the Corporate Sales Manager for the Cincinnati Bengals.

As Corporate Sales Manager, Durbin is responsible for many things like driving sponsorship and suite revenue by identifying, developing and retaining local, regional and national corporate partners. This can be a difficult task, but his experiences at Wittenberg and with the Communication Department, have taught him how to overcome any obstacle.

"Wittenberg provided me with experience in navigating group settings by helping me identify and adjust to the skills that each member of a team or group possesses," Durbin said. "I'm in sales, so communicating over the phone with strangers and asking them private questions can be challenging, but Communication study made me aware of various elements that aid in effectively sharing my thoughts and picking up on their verbal and nonverbal responses."

These experiences have helped mold Durbin into the person that he is today; however, the greatest lesson that he had learned was to take risks.

"Throughout your time at Wittenberg, you are learning about yourself and you will undoubtedly make mistakes. Who cares? Take risks," Durbin advised. "You will learn something from your experiences, both good and bad endings, which will help you become you."

The time Durbin spent at Wittenberg will always have a lasting impact on his life; from the lessons that he learned to the connections that he made, there isn't a thing he would change about his college experience. Your window at college might be short, but the things you learn and the people that you meet will have a lasting impact on your life. So, don't miss that chance.

You will learn something from your experiences, both good and bad endings, which will help you become you.



9 Passing on Light Through the Arts:
Linzey Rice ('16)
Allie Purvis ('19)

Be open to every opportunity that comes your way, and do not be afraid to get creative.

Communication is a diverse degree that can help you achieve your goals in many different fields and Linzey Rice ('16) realized this. Hailing from Van Wert, OH, Rice pursued a Communication and Dance double major. After earning her degree in 2016, Rice is now a graduate student at The Ohio State University on an M.A. track in Arts Policy and Administration. Her research focuses on providing arts engagement opportunities to underserved communities. She also has taught at a local school, Bridgeway Academy, and is currently a teaching artist at BalletMet, Columbus' premier ballet company. She instructs dance residency programs in local early childhood education centers and elementary schools.

When Rice thinks back on her time at Witt, she feels that "the skills I learned as a communication major are the backbone of what I do today. Classes like Interpersonal Communication and Relational Communication have been incredibly valuable in informing how I create and maintain relationships with my coworkers, classmates, important arts professionals, and the children I teach." Not only does she see the value in improving communication skills, but also in how the major taught her to think critically. "Classes like Reasoning and Communication, Gender and Communication, Analysis of Persuasion, and Critical Methods laid the foundation for me to critically analyze the world around me and communicate my ideas in both writing and speaking, which are an integral part of my graduate research."

The experiences Rice had at Witt are what drove her to where she is today, including her internship with Project Jericho through the Hagen Center. Project Jericho provides arts programming for at-risk kids in Springfield, and "working with those kids and with Witt alumna Lauren Houser influenced me to pursue my current work," says Rice.

Rice remembers her college years fondly but her one regret is that "I wish I would have done a senior thesis. While I'm thankful for the memories I made my senior year without the stress of such a project, looking back it would have been valuable to have when applying for graduate school and to talk about in job interviews. Research on that scale is an important part of every field, whether one decides to go to graduate school or not."

Her advice to seniors entering the job market is "do not limit yourself! There is no one "right" way to achieve your goals. Be open to every opportunity that comes your way, and do not be afraid to get creative. Some of my most important contacts and professional relationships are from chance encounters because I decided to try something new or decided to strike up a conversation with the person next to me. The world is much smaller than you think. Most importantly, be authentic! The right people will take notice when you are unabashedly enthusiastic about your work."



Linzey with her 4-Paws dog while at Witt

Lambda Pi Eta: The Communication Honorary

In the Spring of 2017, three new members were inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, our local chapter of the national communication honorary. Three of the members were graduating seniors: Courtney Huck, Pearl Ernat, and Stephanie Glass. The fall 2017 semester will begin with the three new members: Kylie Ponn ('18), Katherine Bunsold ('18), and Danni Yao ('17).

Shortly after the initiation, LPH held a COMM trivia event. Dr. Dudek did COMM-themed trivia rounds, and the event was open to the whole campus.



Communication students at the trivia event in the spring



Left to right: Seniors Courtney Huck, Pearl Ernat, and Stephanie Glass

Alumni Visit COMM 403

Communication alumni visited the capstone course to talk to the seniors about professional life after college: Meredith Level ('11) the Coordinator for Engaged Learning, in the Business department at Wittenberg, and Sara McKinniss ('09), the Internal Communications Coordinator for the Ohio Attorney General's Office in Columbus.



Sara McKinniss ('09)



Meredith Level ('11)

Department of Communication Spring 2017 Colloquium

Jessica Walters ('18)



Dr. Kory Floyd

Dr. Kory Floyd, author of *Interpersonal Communication*, was this year's Communication Spring colloquium speaker. In "The Importance of Being Prosocial," he explained how close relationships can affect our mental and physical well-being. Later that week, just in time for Valentine's Day, he appeared on the *CBS Sunday Morning* show to talk about his research in his new book, *The Loneliness Cure*.

Immigration Panel Sparks Discussion about a Timely Topic



On February 22nd, Dr. Kelly Dillon and Dr. Sheryl Cunningham participated on the immigration panel to give insight and discuss the effects of the new U.S administration's controversial immigration policies. This event was sponsored by Sigma Delta Pi and the World Languages Department.

CABLE 2017

Stephanie Glass ('17)



The 2016 C.A.B.L.E. members left to right: Adam Knisley, Leah Markovich, Justin Wilhite, Laura Jansing, Megan Bobbitt, Parisa Bennett, Lauren Gerhardt, Madelyn Johnson, and Kyrle Bumpus

The Communication and Business Leadership Experience (CABLE) is a career-based professional development program open to communication, business, and sports management majors and minors. In this year-long practicum experience, students explore their career interests through internships and business site visits, learn networking and professional dress, and study corporate leadership.

Members of the 2017 CABLE group are: Nick Tafoya, Chris Sloneker, Luke Durrell, Tim Bates, Ryan Maguire, Abby Haab, Mecca Abdul-Aziz, Sami Petruzzi, Nicole Karavakis, and Zara Tickner. The CABLE practicum is directed by Karen Reynolds and Dr. Tim Bode.

The group visited Gordon Food Services in Springfield, and traveled to Columbus to visit TEKsystems, Fahlgren Mortine and EXPRESS. To end their day in Columbus, they dined with Communication's own Dr. Broz.

The purpose of CABLE site visits is to expose students to a variety of companies so they can explore what kinds of company cultures, management styles, and career fields they are most interested in. In addition to these visits, CABLE allows students hands-on business experience through case studies.

This semester, the group is working on a case study for Wittenberg's new COMPASS center. They were tasked with branding and marketing the COMPASS center to increase student use of the center and the services it provides.

Participant Zara Tickner feels that her first semester in CABLE has already impacted her career. "I think the greatest takeaway so far is networking," Tickner said. "Karen is an expert. She has not only given us a wealth of knowledge, she's pushed us to use her techniques to make the most of every opportunity."

In Fall 2017, the group was split into two teams to work on case studies for Fortune 500 companies. They will travel to those companies to present their findings.



Left to right:
Leah Markovich, Justin Wilhite, Laura Jansing,
Parisa Bennett, Lauren Gerhardt, Stephanie Glass.

More than a Degree: Kailee Kratoville ('13)

Kate Koelling ('17)



Kailee Kratoville ('17)

Kailee Kratoville ('13) graduated from Wittenberg University with more than a Communication degree. Kailee also graduated with experience she could take with her beyond the classroom, as well as personal connections with her professors that helped shape her future career goals. She now works in Human Resources for Alliance Data Systems.

Given that Dr. Broz was her advisor, Kailee sought out classes with her. Due to Dr. Broz's energy, Kailee was encouraged to fully engage in class. That engagement taught Kailee a very important lesson in how to excel in her career: "regardless of your professional career, successful people at all levels are expected to come prepared with a point of view and the ability to critically think through solutions."

Dr. Warber influenced and shaped her future as well. Kailee had Dr. Warber as her professor for Comm Leaders (now known as CABLE). Reflecting upon her time with Dr. Warber, Kailee remembers the guidance she received and how that helped her gain experience to succeed in her career path.

After graduation, Kailee began her first job at Exel working in Human Resources. During her time at Witt, Kailee did not always know she wanted a career in Human Resources, but after interning with Exel, she found her fit. Through this experience, she was able to reflect and give some valuable advice to anyone looking for a job. Kailee says, "Be open to anything— you never know what might lead you to a career that you didn't even know you were passionate about."

As Communication majors, we might receive criticism about what our degree can do for us; however, we can change that misconception. Kailee says, "I think that there is an inherent misconception about what a communication major means to the outside world. Use that to your advantage and surprise them with the diverse skill set you have learned!"

Regardless of your professional career, successful people at all levels are expected to come prepared with a point of view and the ability to critically think through solutions.

Kailee is a great example of what a Communication major at a liberal arts institution can do to prepare students to engage with the world around them and expose them to a range of opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Alumni News and Notes

2003

Jen Stacy-Bradley is an Associate Partner at Buffkin Baker, an executive retained search firm. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Bryce; 19-month old daughter, Libby Marie; and 20-year-old step-daughter, Kinsey.



Jen and family

Todd Dillon is currently the Executive Director of the Lou Fusz Lacrosse Club in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rachel Dunn lives in Chicago, Illinois working as a Marketing Manager at Unilever.

Jill (Bradley) Taylor lives in Worthington, Ohio with her husband and two children. She stopped working full-time after having her second child. Prior, she was a Resource Development Manager with United Way of Greater Cincinnati.



Nick Worner

Nick Worner is currently working at JumpStart Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio, as the Content Manager.

2004

Lauren Chadwick graduated from Cleveland State University in May with a Master of Education degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Aaron Copley-Spivey is the Associate Director of Human Resources and Housing for the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois.

Eric Stenholm is working as the Executive Search Consultant at JM Search.

2005

Caitlin Coleman currently works at Gift of Hope as a Hospital Development Donation Coordinator.

Aubrey Davis lives in Northbrook, Illinois, with her husband and two daughters. She is a Senior Development Officer at Partners In Health. She is a mental health/substance abuse counselor and is currently working on a forensic assertive community treatment team in Phoenix.

Alumni News and Notes

2006

Emily (Hiscar) Arnold is currently living in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband and five-month-old baby boy. She is a Marketing Account Manager at Kroger Corporate.

Lauren (Wilson) Millisor is a Program Manager working on network infrastructure projects for General Electric.

Tregg Nardecchia lives in Los Angeles, California, and working as a Senior Director at an entertainment marketing agency called Starpower in Beverly Hills.



Tregg Nardecchia

Heidi (Mowrey) Shaw got married in June of 2016. She is a licensed school nurse for Athens City School District in Athens, Ohio. She had previously served for two years in AmeriCorps in Athens City Schools assisting with health-related tasks before going back to school to get her nursing degree and then her school nurse licensure.

2007

Amy (Holden) Bibler is the Director of Development for the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University.

Bill Lamkin is in Los Angeles, California, where he has been producing reality television for the past eight years. Most recently, he has been working on cooking shows such as Cutthroat Kitchen, Masterchef, and Top Chef as an Associate Producer.



Tara (Beckman) Peters

Tara (Beckman) Peters got married last year and started a new job as a sales representative for Apria Healthcare selling medical equipment.

Julia (Machledt) Sherrill is a psychotherapist working at a small psychiatric clinic through Carolina HealthCare System in Davidson, NC. She is also a Registered Yoga Teacher.

Alumni News and Notes

2008

Jocelin (Dean) Baker lives in Dayton, Ohio with her husband and daughter. She has moved into the Membership Director Role for the Dayton Racquet Club - a private Business & Sports Club within the ClubCorp portfolio.

Sarah Feters is currently working as an Associate Sports Information Director at Duke University.

Zoe Lamberson lives in Columbus, Ohio, and has recently accepted a position with the Ohio Attorney General's Office where she will be working as an Assistant Attorney General in the Corrections Litigation Unit of the Criminal Justice System.

Lora Younger is currently going to Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.

2009

Erin McBride is working in the business department of BakerHostetler LLP, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions and securities law. She also currently serves as Trustee of The Bridge Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland.

Sarajane Steffes and her husband, **Phil ('06)**, welcomed their second baby, Jameson, on August 26, 2016, the day before their wedding anniversary!

Lukas Treu is currently 6 years into working at AKHIA, a PR and marketing agency in Hudson, Ohio. His title is Lead Content Strategy .

2010

Kelly Clark is an Account Supervisor for Walton Isaacson in Chicago, Illinois.

Joelle Ghanem has been at Leo for 6 1/2 years. She has been promoted to Account Supervisor and is still working on the Marshalls client in brand campaign development and production.

Jennifer (Dick) Moore is currently working as an attorney at Donald Law Office focusing on Estate Planning and Elder Law.

Lauren Woodard is living in San Antonio, Texas as a dog trainer for the City of San Antonio Animal Care Services.

Alumni News and Notes

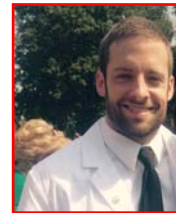
2011

Christy Brinkhoff lives in Charlotte, North Carolina working for Fidelity Investments and was recently promoted to a new position as a Dedicated Retirement Planner within the Tax Exempt Market.

Nick Clemente earned his masters in social entrepreneurship from George Mason University in 2014. He is currently working with his father's commercial real estate development firm as their asset manager.

Thomas Fisher is working in shopper marketing leading the SC Johnson global home cleaning and shoe care brands . He has worked with big brands such as Pepsi, Gatorade, and Reebok.

Rachel (Bundy) Harris is currently a Bodily Injury Claims Adjuster at Westfield Insurance, an Ohio-based insurance carrier that specializes in homeowners, auto, and commercial insurance.



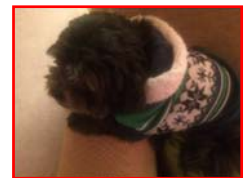
Ben Noble

Ben Noble is in his 2nd year of medical school at The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Meredith Level is the Coordinator for Engaged Learning with the Business Department at Wittenberg University.

Tarah Pike works as a Conference Manager at the Loews Atlanta Hotel coordinating corporate and social events for groups ranging from 15-700 people.

Emily Shaw is in Columbus, Ohio working as a Work Opportunity Specialist for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks in the Work Experience Program. She is also starting a freelance editing and proofreading business this year. She adopted a Shih Tzu mix, named Louie, after the turn-of-the-century revolutionary Chinese writer Lu Xun.



Emily's dog, Louie

The Department of Communication Welcomes Dr. Kelly Dillon

Chloe Bradburn (19)

As Wittenberg undergoes many changes, we welcome Dr. Kelly Dillon, Ph.D., to the Department of Communication. Dr. Dillon began her career at Wittenberg in fall 2016 as a one-year Visiting Assistant Professor to cover media-related courses while the Department conducted a national search for a permanent tenure-track faculty member with that area of expertise. She proved herself to be the best candidate among the many who applied for that position, and she was hired as an Assistant Professor starting in fall 2017.

Dillon grew up in Long Island, New York, with the notion that she wanted to be a lawyer. Wanting to escape the hubbub of New York, she chose a place reflecting the opposite vibe – a small liberal arts school in the middle of Ohio. Entering Kenyon College as a freshman, Dillon was eager to learn more about the law. “I went to Kenyon because there was so much I could learn, and while studying for the LSAT I discovered there was so much,” said Dillon. Dillon veered off her path to continue to receive both bachelors and master’s degrees in psychology.

“Most of my papers in psychology had to do with communication, whether it was different types of words to describe genitalia, nonverbals in high stress environments, or stress in speeches,” said Dillon. “It looks like a squiggly map, but all signs pointed to communication if I looked carefully.” Dillon describes how she fell into communication by means of serendipity. She did not think she could get into social psychology at The Ohio State University. According to her, “the social psychology professors did not think I could do it, but the new person in communication I met the second day at OSU happened to be my advisor. They were so excited about my ideas and pushed me towards communication and I got in.”

Dillon continued to conduct research in higher education administration for 10 years as a grant writer, grant coordinator, and special education researcher. She also worked in The Ohio State’s college of medicine and ran a post-baccalaureate program for student research. “I got tired of helping others get their Ph.D., so I got my own,” said Dillon. “it seemed like the next logical step. I only applied to one program and got in. I quit a very good job making very good money, but it’s probably the fourth best decision I’ve made in my life. Looking back, everything’s pointing towards communication. If I had just seen the signs, I probably would have gotten here a little earlier.”

She mentioned the first three best decisions she made in her life that included going to Kenyon, studying abroad in Perth, Australia (where Heath Ledger is from), and pursuing her high-school sweetheart who became her husband. The fourth was quitting her job for her Ph.D. which was an expensive, but very good decision. “Hindsight usually lets you know how many zeros are attached to any decision,” Dillon said.

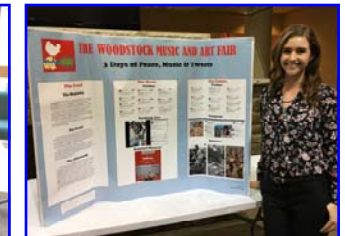
Dillon continues to be attracted to Wittenberg because of the community that is here. She admires that students come to learn, not just to get a degree. “I love the Wittenberg model – what we call a SLAC (small liberal arts college) model which is anything but slack.” This environment is what drew her to Kenyon and what draws her to Wittenberg every day. “I remember what I said in my letter of intent for graduate school: knowledge is oxygen, learning is just like breathing for me. I like to be around other people who huff and puff like I do,” said Dillon.

When asked how her time at Witt has gone so far, she says, “Every time I’m on campus, I feel like I am home.” Her own experience at a small liberal arts school no doubt has helped her fit in well and immediately connect to the students at Wittenberg. Communication students have enjoyed having her expertise in our department and quickly filled her advanced study course focused on social media effects and applications, as well as her other media-related courses. She also has readily demonstrated her willingness and eagerness to be fully involved in the life of the Department, the Wittenberg campus, and Springfield. Her spring 2018 courses will include projects connecting students to the community in meaningful ways.

The Department of Communication is ecstatic to have such a prestigious and dedicated individual come aboard. Welcome to Wittenberg, Dr. Dillon!



Department of Communication professors at Commencement 2017. Dr. Dillon is at the far left.



A creative professor, Dr. Dillon had her COMM 350: Social Media students prepare poster presentations of how historic events in the 20th century might have been covered on social media. They presented their work at the Celebration of Learning, where some students got to speak with people who had experienced those events firsthand.

Alumni News and Notes

2012

Katie Bauer lives in Grandview, Ohio, and is a Communication and Project Coordinator at the Ohio Soybean Council located in Worthington, Ohio.

Brian Duke lives in Denver, Colorado, working as a technical recruiter at a technical consulting company called Prosum. He adopted a dog this year named Teddy.



Brian Duke

Sinjin McNicholl works in real estate at Coldwell Banker Mountain Properties as a Broker Associate in Breckenridge, Colorado.

Hishant Makhija is currently a freelancer for different political campaigns. She worked as an organizer for Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Katie Sumner works at Nationwide. She started in Financial Services Sales and Service Contact Center, became an Internal Sales wholesaler of financial services for the annuity department, covering Houston, TX.

2013



Kelsey Dimar

Kelsey Dimar lives in Louisville, Kentucky, and works as the Director of External Affairs at Kentucky Youth Advocates.

Shelly Gregory has accepted a position at Facebook as a content strategist, after two years at LinkedIn in Omaha, NE. She will be moving to Menlo Park, CA in Silicon Valley to

begin her new job in October.

Kristie Hansen is a Commercial Underwriter for Cincinnati Insurance Companies where she reviews and prices insurance policies for businesses.

Erin Harte is living and working in Chicago, Illinois, at Outcome Health as an Implementation Specialist.



Shelly Gregory

Alumni News and Notes

2014

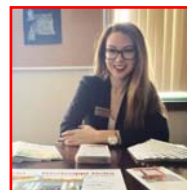
Julia Devine is employed at Brunner as an Assistant Media Planner/Buyer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She also just came out with her first single entitled "That's Ok."



Julia's album cover

Sarah Ziska is graduating in May with Masters of Science in Social Administration (social work) and a Masters in Public Health from Case Western Reserve University.

2015



Meghan Concannon

Meghan Concannon works for the American Cancer Society as a Seasonal Recruiter.

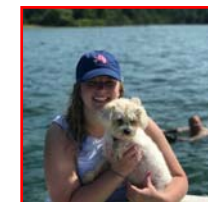
Kristen Mercer is a Community Liaison for Cornerstone Home Healthcare.

Jess Stankeveh is an assistant manager at the Enterprise Rent-A-Car home city location in Newport, Kentucky.

2016

Nicole Cooney lives in Dallas, Texas, serving with an AmeriCorps program, City Year.

Lauren Duraj is at Central Michigan University working in the University Communications department as the Social Media and Content Manager.



Lauren Duraj

Naomi LeClaire is working in Louisville, Kentucky for Humana Inc. (Health Insurance) as a Project Analyst.

Andrea Mattingly works as the Communication and Digital Media Coordinator for Mercy Academy, an all-girls high school in Louisville, Kentucky.

Alumni, we want to hear from you!

One of the most common questions the faculty in the Department of Communication gets 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 and fulfilling things our wonderful alumni are doing with their degree.

But we need your help! 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 of your updates, especially your current mailing address, to wittcomm@wittenberg.edu for inclusion in the Alumni News and Notes section of next year's issue. Keep in touch!

Get and stay connected! Download the Alumni Community app now. Available only to alumni and the senior class, the app features searchable access to the alumni directory and a function for mapping alumni by business address at any location in the world. No matter where you live or how busy your schedule, you can stay up-to-date with your fellow alumni all over the world, for free!



Alumni Community App Icon



Alumni and current students:

Please connect with us on LinkedIn (Wittenberg Univ. Dept of Communication), and then ask to join our closed group for students and alumni (Wittenberg University Dept of Communication Alumni.) This group is intended to be a valuable way for our students and alumni to network, discover common interests, and promote professional development. Thank you!

Congratulations to our Communication Majors on the Fall 2016 Dean's List

Devon Atchison ('19)
 Adam Barstow ('17)
 Katherine Bunsold ('18)
 Mackie Cameron ('18)
 Lexie Cole ('19)
 Blaine Davidson ('18)
 Matthew Entsminger ('19)
 Pearl Ernat ('17)
 Audrey Feiler ('19)
 Stephanie Glass ('17)
 Jeff Hall ('19)
 Lauren Hiller ('19)
 Courtney Huck ('17)
 Hannah Kesig ('18)
 Savannah Marceau ('17)
 Kathryn Nydegger ('19)
 Sami Petruzzi ('18)
 Kylie Ponn ('18)
 Evelyn Ritzi ('17)
 Macy Winkelfoos ('17)



24 Communicating with a Greater Purpose:
Andy Gallatin ('05)

Macy Winkelfoos ('17)

Alumnus Andy Gallatin graduated with a Communication degree in 2005. During his time at Wittenberg, he thrived within its engaging atmosphere, creating friendships and memories that will last him a lifetime.

When asked about his time at Wittenberg and the Department of Communication, Andy reflected upon the many classes that he took, some of them multiple times with different professors, and the connections that he made. He laughed, "I have never used anything I learned in Research Methods," but he did learn everything he needed to know about communicating with different types of people, and it has truly impacted his life.

Andy is passionate about people; he is eager to learn about them and from them. However, he also loves to find peace and enjoyment in the outdoors. Being able to step out of the noise of everyday life gives him space to think and admire the many beauties of nature.

Andy has combined his two passions and will be taking a 6-month kayaking trip in May to raise money for people struggling with drug addiction in Columbus, where he lives. This amazing journey will start with a hike to the Gallatin River, named after his sixth great-grandfather, then he will take off at Yellowstone and end in New Orleans. During this trip, Andy will be traveling alone, sometimes for more than 10 days in solitude. Andy joked, "If you know me, you know I will not survive and will be talking to myself the entire time."

But it is all worth it to him, "I will be traveling to raise \$20,000. That is the amount of money it takes to send someone to drug and alcohol treatment for 30 days." To raise enough money to reach his goal, Andy will be updating blog posts, managing social media accounts, and making connections along the way.

He cannot emphasize enough how important it is to get the conversation about addiction started. Simply put, he wants to raise awareness. If he does not reach his goal but gets people talking, his kayaking trip will have been successful.

I will be traveling to raise \$20,000. That is the amount of money it takes to send someone to drug and alcohol treatment for 30 days.



Andy Gallatin ('05)

25 Reach for your Dreams:
Heather DeSantis ('11)

Anissa Dann ('18)



Heather DeSantis ('11)

From the moment Heather DeSantis graduated from Wittenberg in 2011, she hasn't stopped reaching for her dreams. When she first left Witt, Heather worked for a small advertising agency that served a variety of clients from entrepreneurs to health coaches to nutritionists and even major clients such as Panera Bread and NFL players. There, she utilized her communication degree to help clients convince their audience to buy their products and get people on T.V. and national radio. When she left in 2012 she started her first company Romp Away, which took old clothing and up-cycled them into rompers and headbands.

However, she wanted to incorporate her love of media, interpersonal communication, and non-profit work. So in April of 2016 she started her own PR agency, Heather DeSantis Public Relations, which she founded on the dream of providing an empowering work environment for women who wish to change the world. In just a few short months her company has expanded exponentially and she has been able to work with over 3,000 media contacts to share the stories of her clients. Heather helps her clients by writing content and securing media appearances to help spread the message or story of a person or business. She enjoys focusing on "profit before purpose" companies that use some of their earnings for charity. Thanks to her hard work, Heather has been able to "build [her] life around [her] business" and take as many trips as she wants, work with who she wants, and enjoy an income with no cap. Also a result of her success, Heather has taken on interns from Wittenberg to help her expand and learn more about the communications business world.

Originally, Heather fell in love with communication at Wittenberg after her original dream of an art degree fell short of her passion. After taking an introductory communication class, she realized communication and working with others was her passion. Her favorite classes at Wittenberg were interpersonal communication and media literacy, as she enjoyed focusing on the trends of media. Though she had no idea what she wanted to do with her major specifically, she knew it involved "spread[ing] the word." "Wittenberg allowed me to create," she says, "opening my eyes to what was possible."

After leaving, Heather realized that a Wittenberg education made her a "much more worldly person than most of [her] friends." She decided to use this power to focus on social entrepreneurship and work with those who desire to make an impact in the world like she does. Heather's advice to anyone who wishes to follow a path like hers is to first be involved, as she spent a lot of time at Wittenberg taking part in a variety of community service opportunities. She also advises communication majors to make as many connections as possible. "Reach out to people in the field and ask them how you can help them with their vision," she says, "Be really open and hungry; always give more than you take."

Be really open and hungry; always give more than you take.

Communication Students Earn High Awards at the 2017 Honors Convocation

Mecca Abdul-Aziz ('18) - Alma Mater

Devon Atchison ('19) - Ivy Ring; Pick and Pen

Adam Barstow ('17) - Communication Department Honors

Katherine Bunsold ('18) - Epsilon Alpha Sigma; Lambda Pi Eta; Omicron Delta Kappa; Gamma Sigma Alpha

Mackenzie Cameron ('18) - Alpha Delta Pi Scholarship Award

Pearl Ernat ('17) - University Honors; Art Department Honors

Stephanie Glass ('17) - University Honors; Communication Department Honors

Jaymi Green ('18) - Mortar Board

Courtney Huck ('17) - Outstanding Scholar in Cinema Analysis and Research; University Honors; Communication Department Honors

Hannah Kesig ('18) - Sigma Delta Pi; Alpha Delta Pi Scholarship Award; Alma Mater Finalist

Samantha Petruzzi ('18) - William A. Kinnison Scholarship; Omicron Delta Kappa; Chi Alpha Sigma; Gamma Sigma Alpha

Kylie Ponn ('18) - Mortar Board

Evelyn Ritzi ('17) - Laurels in Communication

Catherine Stewart ('17) - Alpha Kappa Delta

Danni Yao ('17) - Lambda Pi Eta



Evelyn Ritzi ('17) was named the 2017 Laurels in Communication recipient. She was tapped by the faculty and crowned in Senior Seminar prior to the campus-wide Honors Convocation.



*Mecca Abdul-Aziz ('18)
Alma Mater*



Hannah Kesig ('18) with her award

Fostering Cross-Cultural Understanding

All 2016-17 sections of COMM 270S: Interpersonal Communication hosted a panel of guests from various cultural backgrounds for a discussion on cultural differences in communication. They spoke about their cross-cultural experiences and challenges, social norms, and other topics of interest. Students were able to ask questions related to the content they were learning in class. The panels featured three majors who have studied abroad: Stephanie Glass ('17), Madelyn Johnson ('17), and Sami Petruzzi ('18). International student guests represented seven countries: Mizuho Harada and Haruno Sakamoto (Japan), Liz Sadek (Egypt), Rhionna Comaskey (Ireland), Bethlehem Melaku (Ethiopia), Josefien van den Berg (Netherlands), Enzo Berlanda (Brazil), and Fulbright T.A. Marina Nikonova (Russia). Dr. Broz felt this was a great way to connect students across campus and make some of the concepts her students have read about really come to life for her students in Interpersonal Communication.



Fall 2016 Communication Colloquium: Dr. David Domke

On October 11th, Dr. David Domke, Chair of Communication at the University of Washington, visited the Communication majors and minors as well as the class of 2020 to discuss the upcoming U.S. presidential election and what it will mean for America.

Dr. Domke discussed the idea of the American identity being challenged and how that affects some of the controversial topics of today. Dr. Domke also described the many great moments of social change and how "the change is in our hands." Finally, Dr. Domke questioned this generation: "what are you going to do to carry [the country] forward?" We thank Dr. Domke enlightening us on such a pressing topic.



Dr. David Domke

28 **Bursting the Bubble from Witt to Google:**
Kayla Villegas ('16)
Sami Petruzzi ('18)



Kayla Villegas ('16)

2016 Wittenberg graduate Kayla Villegas has moved on from our “Wittenberg bubble” to the fast-paced and innovating Google campus in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she works as an Associate Account Strategist.

At Google, Kayla works with small-to-medium businesses, helping them use existing Google products more effectively or helping them launch new ones. On a typical day, she uses her communication degree 24/7, as she interacts with a variety of different clients over the phone as well as with colleagues and managers in the office. Kayla credits her ability to communicate effectively to our Department of Communication, as she said “I think our Comm Department is amazing.” Additionally, the Department of Communication has taught

her how to be a better writer, which is something else she does everyday, from creating a pitch to being concise in an email.

Kayla is a prime example of a great leader and problem-solver and credits that to our “Wittenberg bubble” here in Springfield. Our small community on campus has taught her so much about working with and leading others. While here at Witt, Kayla was involved in a variety of activities where she was able to exercise her leadership skills as the president of her class, a leader in her sorority, and a member of CABLE among many other organizations. These all were “exceptional leadership experiences” and have made her better at her job.

CABLE specifically allowed Kayla to create a network at Google. She was an intern there as an Associate Account Strategist during the summer before her senior year and stated that her “contacts have been invaluable” and she has been able to learn so much. In addition to developing “soft skills” such as how to conduct yourself during a business meeting and how to network, CABLE also showed Kayla how to set herself apart and create her own brand.

When asked what her favorite thing is about working for Google, she could not pick just one! Kayla is grateful everyday to be able to work with such amazing people. Of course, Google is on the cutting edge of technology, so the atmosphere is very fast-paced. Yet, Kayla says Google actually reminds her a lot of college due to their encouragement of passion and curiosity. They also look at you “as more than just an employee” and really value your specific interests and goals for the future.

Seize every opportunity you're given, reach out to alumni, and remember what an honor it is to receive an education. Use it and pass it on.

29 **From Witt to the Big Apple:**
Matt Green ('04)
Nick Tafoya ('18)

Thirteen years after graduating, Matt Green ('04) still remembers and thanks Wittenberg for the influence this campus and the Department of Communication had on him as an undergraduate.

After graduating, Matt went on to get a Master's degree in Urban Policy and Nonprofit Management, with encouragement from his peers and professors, from The New School in New York City. Now Matt works under NYC council member Corey Johnson as the Deputy Chief of Staff. He and his team work in Manhattan's lower west side in neighborhoods like Greenwich, Hell's Kitchen, SoHo, and the Upper West Side. Together, they deal with the city budget, at least \$1 million, to see how the community would like to use the money, whether that be through improvements to schools, parks, libraries, public houses, and other community spaces.

Green points out that “communication plays a huge role in my daily work. How a message is delivered and received, and knowing who your audience is helps create positive collaboration between government and the people we serve.”

When asked to reflect upon his time here at Witt, Green said some of the things he misses most are walking to class through the hollow, studying in the lower level of the library, or living with his friends on Park Place. Green also took advantage of the study abroad program for a semester in Tokyo, Japan.

Green also reminds current students that what you learn at Witt can translate to post-grad life. He points to the fact that what he was working on with his final paper, how the

media uses communication strategies to exacerbate differences in political opinions and what impact that has on political discourse, is something he can apply to our current political climate

Matt's words of advice for Wittenberg students are: “Have fun and enjoy it! It goes by fast.”



Matt with his wife Laura Baran and son, Leo

Communication plays a huge role in my daily work.

A Note from the Department Chair

"Now, that's a Wittenberg moment..." "Dr. Matt Smith and I used to say to each other as we experienced a particularly inspirational happening on campus. It might be something grand and ceremonial like a moving convocation ceremony in Weaver Chapel or the celebratory march across campus on commencement day in full pomp and circumstance. It could just as well be something small and easy to miss, like when a humble, deserving student—always in the shadow of her more extroverted peers—gets tapped for the Communication Laurels award. And then there are those spontaneous Witt moments catching us by surprise, like when we run into former students at a Homecoming tailgate. We marvel at the paths they have taken upon graduation—particularly those who may have struggled through some courses—and we look in awe upon their many and varied accomplishments. These are "Wittenberg moments," to be sure.



Dr. Waggoner at the top of the Victory Column (Siegestaule) in Berlin.

We hope that this issue of *Links* provides a snapshot of Wittenberg moments for you, reminding you of all that you love about Witt. Read about our new faculty and current students, ready to make their own distinctive mark on our Wittenberg. Check out the achievements of our alumni already making their mark in the world and passing on their light to others in true Wittenberg tradition. Then take a minute to drop us a line about what you've been doing. Let's keep those Witt moments going.

Dr. Catherine Waggoner, Dept. Chair

Dr. Waggoner's Gender and Communication Class Takes a Field Trip to a Drag Show

On October 3rd, Dr. Waggoner's COMM 361 class took a trip to a drag show at Masque dance club in Dayton. Earlier in the week, drag queens, Tim (Tasha Salad), Amaya Sexton, and Mocha Lisa, and their promoter, Cody Kincaid, visited to teach the class about drag.



The class gathers for a photo with guest drag queens and their promoter



From left to right: Tim (Tasha Salad), Amaya Sexton, and Mocha Lisa

Thank You for Your Support!

The Department of Communication would like to thank those alumni and friends 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!

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on *Facebook!*

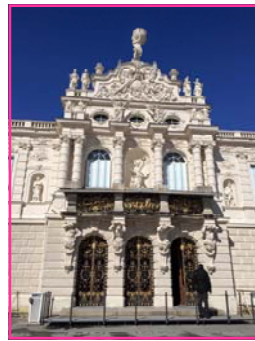
We also have
videos on our
YouTube
channel,
WittComm!



Dr. Waggoner in Germany: Witt in Witt, Spring 2018

In spring 2018, Dr. Catherine Waggoner will direct the Witt in Witt program in Wittenberg, Germany. Students will visit and analyze local monuments and memorials related to important historical events such as WWII, the Holocaust, Martin Luther, and the Reformation, assessing the ways in which memory is mobilized to create a shared sense of the past. She notes that a major focus of her General Education course will be on “how and why certain depictions of the past are memorialized while others are left out--and what all of this means for the stability of cultures.” While there, students also will study German, take other elective courses, and complete an internship for academic credit.

When asked about her interest in directing this unique program, Dr. Waggoner said, “I studied abroad in my own college days, and ever since, I’ve wanted to live and teach in another country for an extended time. Germany is intriguing to me, not only because of Wittenberg’s Lutheran connection, but also because of the rich history. My family also has hosted several German exchange students in the past five years, and it seems like a natural fit for me in the Witt in Wittenberg program. I’m thrilled to be going!”



Dr. Broz in Costa Rica: Witt in San José, Spring 2019

In spring 2019, Dr. Stefne Broz will direct the Witt in Costa Rica program in San Jose. Students will study intensive Spanish, take elective courses, complete their Community Service requirement, and earn General Education credit with Dr. Broz’s course on Central American Cultures and Communication. Her course will augment the program’s immersive experience by helping students make sense of the cultural differences they encounter during their semester in Costa Rica. Students will visit beaches, volcanoes, hot springs, national parks, and take other excursions, as well as live with a host family during their stay in San Jose. They also will travel to Panama for a mid-semester break. This program is particularly well suited to athletes, as there are opportunities to train and play with local teams in San Jose.

Dr. Broz has taken Wittenberg students to Japan for a summer field study three times, and she feels that has been helpful preparation for directing this program. As a double-major in Communication and Spanish, Dr. Broz also studied abroad three times in college. She says, “Those were truly life-changing experiences for me. I’m really looking forward to helping students make their own amazing study-abroad memories!” An avid scuba diver, she also is looking forward to diving in both the Caribbean and Pacific.



Learning your Vocation

Jessica Walters ('18)

As a junior at Wittenberg, I started to think of the future. I spent time working with Career Services in the Fall, and started thinking about a place to complete an internship during the Spring. With guidance from my counselors and much consideration, I decided to complete an internship through the Hagen Center for Civic and Urban Engagement. I was placed at Project Woman, a local non-profit that is dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault by providing services and programs to protect, educate, and empower. Having a strong interest in non-profit work, I was excited about this experience. During my time there, my task was to gather data on intimate partner violence of individuals over the age of 50 in order to better understand what services and resources Project Woman could provide to better support individuals in the community.

This internship stretched me in many ways. My first day I got to job shadow advocates and learn about the work that they do. I saw the heart strings of this organization and the dedication it takes to be a part of this line of work. The communication skills I've gathered really came in use when I had to learn to connect with people who came from completely different walks of life than me. Some of the clients there had been through so much that it was difficult for them to trust others or to accept the assistance being offered to them. I had to learn to earn their trust when there was no trust for them to give.



Jessica Walters ('18)

The biggest lesson I learned from this experience is that people are truly made for certain things. I started to think about what my personal vocation in life will be. Not vocation as in a job, but what my talents and gifts can do for others. I learned that in life, people ask too often, "What is in it for me?" rather than asking, "What is in me, for *it*?"

Communication Majors Gain Valuable Internship Experience

Communication majors at Wittenberg are strongly encouraged to complete an internship as part of their liberal arts education. These hands-on experimental learning opportunities give them a distinct advantage when it comes to seeking employment after graduation...

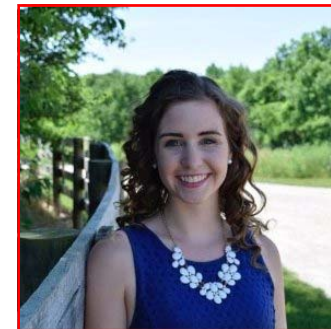
If your company is hiring interns, please let Wittenberg's Career Services know! Send position descriptions to: careers@wittenberg.edu

Taking Your Internship to the Next Level

Evelyn Ritzi ('17)

Bestselling author Nora Roberts once wrote, "If you don't ask, the answer is always no." During my senior year, I decided to take this advice to heart, and believe me when I say that it paid off splendidly.

As I entered my final year of college, I knew I needed more internship experience before applying for entry-level positions in a marketing or public relations agency. Although I had already completed three internships, I wanted the full agency experience, so I set out finding a local agency that would take an intern for the spring semester.



Evelyn Ritzi ('17)

After a few weeks of searching through job postings and asking around, I was still coming up short. Admittedly, I got discouraged. One day, I did a simple Google search: "Marketing agencies in Dayton." It led me to The Ohlmann Group in downtown Dayton, an award-winning marketing and advertising agency that's been around since 1949. It looked like the perfect fit, but there were no job postings on their website! Instead of giving up, I decided to email my cover letter and resume, just to see. Within a few days I was contacted, interviewed, and offered an internship with this wonderful agency.

Throughout my internship, I had the opportunity to learn about content marketing, public relations, and event planning from experts in the field. Some of my responsibilities include conducting market research, writing original content for four client blogs, and communicating with clients and team members to ensure projects were completed on time and correctly.

One of my favorite projects was assisting with the public relations for a restaurant's grand opening, which involved a great deal of back-and-forth communication between clients, media influencers and community leaders. This internship truly put my communication skills to the test: I had to utilize concise writing to create effective content, and strong interpersonal skills to relay information to co-workers and clients.

Best of all, my internship turned into a full-time job offer. I am joining The Ohlmann Group as Communications Specialist beginning May 2017.

My advice to communication majors is this: Be brave. Do research into what you want to do, and if you don't see a job posting, try contacting the employer and expressing your interest. In this field, ambition, creativity and confidence will help you stand out from the crowd. Take advantage of Wittenberg's alumni network and ask plenty of questions. You never know where your next internship may lead you!

Ambition, creativity and confidence will help you stand out from the crowd.

Department of Communication Faculty News and Notes



Dr. Jose Aviles

Dr. Jose Aviles earned his bachelor of arts in psychology at Bard College. Following completion of his bachelor's degree, he spent two years working as a research assistant at Yale University for the Yale-Bridgeport GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) partnership. In 2013, he completed his master's degree in communication at the College of Charleston. Aviles earned his Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 2017. His research explores impacts of games and avatars, pro-social uses of media, games and advertising, and stereotypes and prejudice.

Dr. Stefne Lenzmeier Broz served on the Wittenberg University President Search Committee this past year, a group of faculty, staff, Board members, and friends of Wittenberg who worked together to recruit, select and interview candidates to be considered for Wittenberg's next President. With President Mike Frandsen now in place, she serves on the Presidential Transition Team along with other faculty from the Search Committee to help ensure a smooth and successful start to his leadership. Dr. Broz will be taking a sabbatical next fall to do research, followed by directing the Wittenberg in Costa Rica semester, based in San Jose, in Spring 2019; she will travel there this spring to begin preparations for the course she will teach during that semester.



Dr. Stefne Broz

Dr. Sheryl Cunningham's book review of *Michelle Obama: First Lady, American Rhetor* was published in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Dr. Cunningham is currently on sabbatical, working on several papers for publication in the area of environmental communication. She is also continuing her work as faculty sustainability coordinator. Last spring the Sustainability Task Force partnered with Residence Life to pilot a student move-out program in Myers Hall so that reusable items were donated to the Salvation Army instead of thrown in the trash when students moved out in May. Dr. Cunningham hopes to expand the move-out program to more dorms this spring. Another of Dr. Cunningham's goals for Sustainability Task Force is to help set up a composting system for the CDR so that food waste is composted rather than thrown in the trash.



Dr. Sheryl Cunningham

Department of Communication Faculty News and Notes



Dr. Kelly Dillon

Dr. Kelly Dillon, who began at Wittenberg as a Visiting Assistant Professor, has been hired as an Assistant Professor to teach media-related courses. In addition to repeating her advanced-study seminar in Social Media in Fall 2017, Dr. Dillon will be teaching a first-year course in Television, and the upper-level Research Methods course. Dr. Dillon graduated from The Ohio State University in 2016, with her Ph.D. in Communication. She recently received the American Psychological Association's Outstanding Student Dissertation Award in Division 46 (Media & Technology studies). Her research focuses on computer-mediated communication, cyberbullying intervention, hate speech, and social support. Her newest piece is available September 25th. It will be in *JAMA: Pediatrics*, a prestigious and high-impact journal for clinicians and researchers. That article is titled, "Deadly Child's Play: Effects of Movie Characters with Guns on Children's Interest in Real Guns."

Dr. Catherine Egley Waggoner, department chair, is finishing *Realizing Our Place: Real Southern Women on Living in a Mythologized Land* (U. of MS Press), expected to be out in summer 2018. She presented her research at the National Communication Association convention in Philadelphia in November and was an invited co-facilitator for a workshop on gender at the Western States Communication Association convention in Salt Lake City in February. Currently, she is excited about directing the Witt in Witt (Germany) program in the spring 2018 semester, and will travel to Germany this June to prepare for her course on the rhetoric of memory. Students will analyze local monuments/memorials related to important historical events (e.g., WWII, the Holocaust, Martin Luther, and the Reformation) assessing the ways in which memory is mobilized to create a shared sense of the past.



Dr. Catherine Egley Waggoner

Dr. Katie Warber finished her third year as Director of First Year Programs. She stepped down at the end of spring semester to pursue other leadership opportunities on campus and beyond. She taught classes last year in social scientific methods as well as relational communication, and served as Chair of the Programming Committee for the Wittenberg Series. She also continues to serve as Wittenberg's Grand Marshal. In August, Dr. Warber and her husband welcomed their first child- a little girl named Penelope.



Dr. Katie Warber

Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates!

