



Links

**Connecting Alumni,
Students, and Faculty**

**Wittenberg University
Department of Communication
Newsletter 2018**

Greetings from the Editors

Aubrey Cox ('20) & Jessica Walters ('18)

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

The *Links* staff has 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, we hope you find the journeys that so many of these individuals are on not only inspiring, but compelling. Wittenberg is a special place in which many of us have found our identity, our calling, and our true vocation in life.

We are grateful for the knowledge we have gained through our experiences at Witt, and love sharing the success of our fellow Tigers.

Thank you to the alumni and their dedication to honoring Wittenberg and the Department of Communication. We wouldn't be anywhere we are now without you!

Lastly, congratulations to the class of 2018! We hope you can pass your light on to everyone you meet, and represent Wittenberg in the highest of standards. Always remember where you came from.

Tiger Up, Witt!

2018 *Links* Writers:

Kylie Ponn ('18)
Nicole Fracasso ('18)
Samantha Petruzzi ('18)
Jaymi Green ('18)
Kat Nydegger ('19)
Lauren Hiller ('19)
Aubrey Cox ('20)
Olivia Nortz ('20)
Maggie Keverline ('20)
Samantha Martens ('20)



Alumni Liaison Intern:
Jess Walters ('18)



Alumni Liaison Intern:
Aubrey Cox ('20)

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Congrats, Class of 2018!



Environmental Communication: Dr. Cunningham by Aubrey Cox ('20)



In Fall of 2017, Dr. Cunningham was on sabbatical. During this time, she focused mainly on media content. She analyzed media coverage of environmental issues like fracking, looking at both television and newspapers. One of the most interesting findings was that people who regularly read newspapers tend to show more caution about and be less supportive of fracking. She also got the chance to revise a paper a colleague and she had written in grad school about alternative media and the idea of critical journalists holding people in power accountable. In this paper she was more interested in media outlets that have a critical orientation toward power.

Dr. Cunningham has been able to bring her research back to Witt and incorporate it into her COMM 280 Reasoning and Communication and COMM 363 Environmental Communication classes. Specifically, her 280 class focused their deliberation project on fracking, and she was able to fill in some of the knowledge gaps about the process and how it works in Ohio. Her research has helped her find new concepts and readings for the class to think about.

She set goals for herself and successfully accomplished them. She wanted to get at least one conference paper revised and sent out for publication and was able to do so. It is currently under review with the journal of *Environmental Communication*. She also sent out a proposal to a conference focusing solely on environmental communication. Lastly, she submitted a proposal to the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) for their upcoming conference: Reimagining Sustainability: Communication and Media Research in a Changing World.

She was very inspired by her research in a number of ways. Since she is the faculty sustainability coordinator on campus, she kept working in that area while on sabbatical. Though a lot of what she read was about media coverage and fracking, some of what she read focused on shaping behavior change. She had a lot of time to think about how to get people to engage in more pro-environmental behaviors on campus. One way she discovered is to create structures and opportunities that make it easy for people to do the right thing.

"I am most excited about the potential for starting a composting program at Wittenberg."

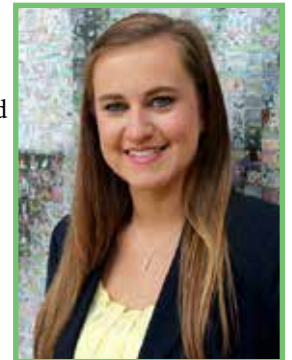
Making Way in Collegiate Athletics: Beth (Thomas) Ellis ('13) by Aubrey Cox ('20)

Beth (Thomas) Ellis graduated from Wittenberg in 2013. She now resides in Bellflower, Illinois, where she is currently serving as the Coordinator of Partnership Services for Redbird Sports Properties at Illinois State University. Redbird Sports Properties has the multi-media rights for Illinois State Athletics and is responsible for managing all aspects of corporate sponsorships on behalf of the university athletic department.

Her passion for collegiate athletics was fostered by her experiences at Wittenberg. As a freshman, she took a job on a student team within the athletic department responsible for promoting upcoming athletic events and providing in-game promotions at various events. While she loved the sport management courses she took, she still loves that she has a degree and background in communication. The biggest thing a Communication degree from Wittenberg taught her was a way to approach, analyze, and think through topics and situations. She learned to be aware of the "why" in her own reasoning and decision making and to look beyond the surface when interacting with others. She is thankful for courses like COMM 290 Media Literacy that encouraged her to look at not only what the media is saying, but how they are saying it.

Her greatest achievement since graduating Wittenberg was being selected as a NCAA Postgraduate Intern. During her year with the NCAA she served in the Championship & Alliances department, focusing on fan communication and in-game presentation. This allowed her to travel to several National Championships including the 2016 Division I Women's Volleyball Championship and 2017 Men's Final Four.

When asked if there is any advice to give students, Beth said, "Do not be afraid to admit you don't know it all and you don't have all the answers. But use that moment to then seek out the answer or even a new perspective. Always look for the 'why'. If you open yourself up to the opportunity to dig deeper into a particular idea or a differing perspective, you will have more information to then use in understanding both yourself and the world around you."



"Do not be afraid to admit you don't know it all."

Technical Recruiter at Prosum:

Brian Duke ('12)

Kylie Ponn ('18)

Brian Duke, a 2012 Communication graduate, currently works in sunny Denver, CO, as the Lead Technical Recruiter for a technical consulting company called Prosum, a Microsoft Gold Partner and staffing agency headquartered in Los Angeles. Duke also currently lives with another Wittenberg graduate, Joe Szabo '12 and his two-year-old dog Teddy. In his spare time, Duke enjoys going on hikes, camping, visiting breweries, and playing soccer in an adult co-ed league every week. In addition, Duke loves traveling and has been all over the United States and Australia since graduation, and is currently looking forward to a trip to Southeast Asia with another Witt grad this spring.

Duke shares that his communication degree from Wittenberg prepared him for where he is today, "I wouldn't necessarily say I use my degree on a daily basis, but the critical thinking, communication skills, and teamwork that I learned from Witt help me every day." He also didn't know much about the recruiting industry until the Communication Leaders program in 2011, which allowed him to visit TekSystems in Columbus, his first exposure to the industry. Duke admits that while his first job out of college was "not great," he revisited the recruiting industry for his second role and decided it was the right career path for him to take. Five years and promotions later, Duke is now a team leader and enjoys his career, but says he always wants to grow personally and professionally.

Duke's advice for current college students is simple, "TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR COLLEGE YEARS" (yes, he actually exclaimed in all caps). Like many, Duke says college goes by way too fast and he urges students to get involved, meet as many people as possible, take every opportunity, study abroad, and "oh, and if you have any desire to get into an IT career or take technical classes, do it!"



"Take advantage of your college years...it goes by too fast."

Expanding Communication: Kari (Phelan) Kozlowski ('08)

by: Aubrey Cox ('20)

Kari Phelan Kozlowski graduated from Wittenberg in 2008. Taking advantage of the multiple ways to get involved on campus, Kari was a member of the Wittenberg Student Dance Company, a Residential Advisor, and a part of the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. She now resides in Hattiesburg, Mississippi with her family where she is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern Mississippi.



After her graduation from Witt, she knew she wanted to go back to graduate school for something, but she still wasn't sure as to what that would be. So, she took a year off and worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer for a legal clinic in her home city of Indianapolis. Here, she was in charge of creating an outreach program for the growing Burmese refugee population in the city. This was such an eye-opening experience for her and she realized that if she wanted to understand how inequality works in society, she would need to understand how it worked in education. Using what she found to motivate her, she applied to graduate school and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she studied Sociology of Education. She attained her Master's Degree in 2011, and received her Ph.D. in 2016.

One of the most valuable aspects stemming from her Communication degree was her thesis project. Doing her own research, collecting data, and presenting in a large auditorium has immensely helped her in her career. As a professor now, that is her job. In fact, the quality of her research she had submitted to grad school was one of the reasons she was a top prospect at UNC. She still feels a strong connection to Dr. Waggoner and Dr. Warber, who pushed her to be her best and helped shape her into the professor she is today.

When asked to give advice to a current Communication major, she said, "College is much more than a piece of paper. It's a set of skills, a network of people to connect you to opportunity, and a time for you to grow and challenge yourself in ways you couldn't understand coming into it." Kari is someone who exemplifies hard work, dedication, and she is making an impact everyday through the students she teaches.

"College is much more than a piece of paper...it's a time to grow and change."

Lambda Pi Eta: The Communication Honorary



Lambda Pi Eta is the national communication honorary society. Majors who maintain outstanding grade point averages while making significant progress toward their degree are invited to join. Special recognition and activities are extended to its members. Lambda Pi Eta is also dedicated to giving back to the community, and undertakes various service projects each semester to fulfill that goal. Current members include: Christopher Riviere, Aubrey Cox, Lauren Hiller, Kai Hannum, Rachel Wallace, Nicole Karavakis, and not pictured, Megan Selby. 2018 graduates of Lambda Pi Eta include Nicole Fracasso and Katherine Bunsold.

Finding His Passion: Aaron Copley ('05) by: Nicole Fracasso ('18)

Being a first generation college student, Aaron Copley didn't know what to expect when he entered Wittenberg University. Throughout his time here, Copley was able to explore many aspects of Wittenberg. For starters, Copley was a Resident Assistant in Woodlawn Hall, held leadership positions in campus ministries, and he was apart of the Wittenberg choir. Copley also looked forward to participating in Wittenberg's dance concert each semester. He even found himself nominated for homecoming king as well as Wittenberg's very first Alma lux.



Apart from all of this, Copley also enjoyed participating in bell ceremonies, late nights in the chapel, group projects, ringing the victory bell, racquetball, Witt Series Events, stage managing shows, talking to professors about their research, astronomy class, Lessons and Carols, and climbing the hill every day. "I honestly cannot choose a single experience as more memorable than any other," Copley said.

After graduation, he achieved his masters degree at Bowling Green State University and has worked in higher education and student affairs for over a decade. Currently, Copley serves as the Director of Human Resources and Housing for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is their Title IX Coordinator. In this job, Copley has the ability to provide training and development programs to students, faculty, and staff. This consists of discussing difficult conversation topics consisting of conflict management, combating racism and sexism, and self-efficacy. "It's a truly rewarding position," Copley said. He is especially thankful for his job as an RA because it's what led him to his current position. "I loved the training and development received through that program and wanted to impact future students," Copley said.

Copley advises current Communication majors to "trust the process." He acknowledges that sometimes, coursework may seem tedious. "Lean into the challenging parts and take note of why certain things challenge you," Copley said.

Copley also recommends that students "go to chapel, go to performances, go to athletic events just to cheer for others. Play disc golf...lots of disc golf. Ask questions in class. Provide answers in class. Go to the Writing Center. Ask to connect with alumni." Copley believes that all these every day activities shaped him in ways he cannot fully express.

"Trust the process."

C.A.B.L.E 2017-2018

by Samantha Petruzzi ('18)



The Communication and Business Leadership Experience (CABLE) is a unique professional development opportunity open to all Communication, Business, and Sport Management majors and minors. The program runs from spring semester junior year through fall semester senior year with a summer internship in between. During this time, students learn important skills like resume building, networking, creating an effective

LinkedIn profile, and building a case study for a particular company.

The 2017 CABLE team included: Mecca Abdul-Aziz, Tim Bates, Luke Durell, Abby Haab, Nicole Karavakis, Ryan Maguire, Samantha Petruzzi, Nick Tafoya, Zara Tickner, and Chris Sloneker. During the first semester of the program, the team visited the Schindler Banquet Center in Xenia, Ohio for some team building activities and learned professional tips from Wittenberg faculty and staff. The staff included Dr. Wendy Gradwohl, Mr. Jon Duraj, Dr. Stefne Broz, Dr. Sheryl Cunningham, and Mrs. Wendy Smisek. These skills helped later in the semester when the team had the opportunity to network with alumni and visit companies in Springfield, Columbus, and Cincinnati.

The first of many company visits began here in Springfield with a trip to Gordon Food Service. Next, the team traveled to Columbus and Cincinnati, where they were welcomed by alumni and visited companies such as TEKSystems, Fahlgren Mortine, Express, and Graeter's. Each of these visits provided the team with an opportunity to experience a different company culture and this helped each member identify where their skills fit best, and translated into their internship positions.

After completing summer internships, the team was back in the fall with new experiences and skills that aided them in their case study presentations to JP Morgan Chase and Google in Chicago. Each group conducted millennial-focused research and presented their findings to senior leaders at each company. In addition, the team had the opportunity to network with a variety of alumni and other professionals in the area.



Finding your "It": Lukas Treu ('09)

by Jaymi Green ('18)

Lukas Treu graduated in 2009 with a Communication major and a Psychology minor. After graduation, Lukas earned his first Public Relations internship at an agency in Cleveland called Dix & Eaton. In early 2010, Treu took a part-time position with P.R. agency Yopko Penhallurick. By November of 2010, he started his position at AKHIA, a P.R. and marketing communications agency in Hudson, Ohio.

After working in the Account Service Department, Treu joined the Content Development Department in which he became a full-time writer and material developer for AKHIA clients. He is responsible for using research and analysis skills to develop marketing literature, email campaigns, press releases and other materials his clients may need. Treu says the most rewarding part of his job is when you see yourself as "an integral part of overcoming a challenge from start to finish... especially when it yields strong results for your client."

When asked about how the Wittenberg Communication Department prepared him for life after graduation, Treu credits his success to the many writing-intensive course he took as a student, as well as the advice and support from two current Communication Professors, Dr. Waggoner and Dr. Warber. He also explains that his study abroad experience in Austria exposed him to the P.R. world and gave him a sense of direction in terms of a career path.

The 2009 graduate has plenty of advice for current Communication majors, but the most important thing he learned while at Wittenberg can be applied to all of us. He says to believe in yourself. "Witt gave me confidence that I could achieve in ways I didn't think possible. Besides granting ample opportunities to excel academically, Witt offers ways in which you can develop your leadership and problem-solving skills, be challenged and reinforced by professors, and ultimately forge the confidence you'll need to succeed later in life."



"Take advantage of your college years...it goes by too fast. If you've made the most of your time at Witt, you'll know you can do it, whatever 'it' is."

Alumni News and Notes

2003

Todd Dillon is the Executive Director of Lou Fusz Athletic Lacrosse. He is also the Marketing and Communications Director for Lou Fusz Athletic. Lou Fusz Athletic offers soccer and lacrosse programs for thousands of area kids and families in the St. Louis area.

Allen D'Andrea currently lives in Greenville, SC. He and his wife own a Stanley Steemer franchise in Greenville, SC and service 9 counties in the upstate.

Nick Williams started his own business and created an indoor athletics facility, The Yard.

2004

Laura is an Associate Professor of Communication at Denison University. Her teaching and research focus on health communication, relational ethics, and social well-being.

Angela Trego Crist works as a Community Manager at GitHub which is a development platform company headquartered in San Francisco. She works from Orlando, FL, and visits HQ a few times a year.

2006

Shari Jayawardhana has been working as the Programme Coordinator for the Women's Education and Research Center (WERC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, since January 2017.

Melissa Gallion is an RN in the ER at Mercy Tiffin Hospital. She is married to Andy Bucheit who was an '05 Communication major.

Tregg Nardecchia is currently working as a Senior Director, Entertainment Marketing at Starpower, LLC in Beverly Hills, CA.

Kylie Evans moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and is now a first-year doctoral student in the Social Welfare PhD program at Case Western Reserve University.

2007

Anne Nichols is entering her 10th year working for the U.S. Government where she uses her Communication degree daily. She is married with a four-year-old son and resides in Ashland, Kentucky.

Susan Watson is an analyst at an advertising agency.

Rachel Dunn is working for a food service company called Guckenheimer (on-site contract catering company), managing Marketing & Communications at all of their Google sites across America.

Alumni News and Notes

2008

Sarah Fetters is the Associate Sports Information Director at Duke University where she is the primary contact for the Duke football team and men's tennis team.

Amy Southgate is a Strategic Account Manager for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, building relationships and business opportunities with travel agents in the Tampa Bay Area. She and her husband, Andy, live in St Petersburg, FL.

Jocelin Dean is the Membership Director at the Dayton Racquet Club.

Zoe (Lamberson) Saadey is still living in Columbus and is now working as an Assistant Attorney General in the Capital Crimes Unit of the Criminal Justice Section at the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

2010

Amy Lintern is currently a Marketing Manager at a wholesale distributor called Automatic Supply, and manages all communication, events, and promotional efforts of the company.

Maryam Rezayat works at a general agency in Columbus as the individual and senior new business coordinator, advising insurance agents across Ohio and serving as the middleman between them and the insurance companies.

Katherine Fernholz is currently the Director of Philanthropy at Pillars Community Health, which is one of the first non-profits in Illinois to integrate primary medical and dental care with mental health and social services.

2011

Erin Steinberg is working as a senior research analyst at Futuri Media on their media sales product called TopLine.

Lisl Davis is currently living in Alexandria, VA working as Duke Energy's Legislative Specialist for the Federal Government Affairs shop in Washington, DC.

Liana Began is working at the Brooklyn Law School in the Alumni and Development Department where she is an Advancement Officer.

Alumni News and Notes

2012

Ben Groff is currently working in higher education publishing sales at Cengage from his home office in Columbus, Ohio as well as coaching lacrosse at Worthington Kilbourne High School. Last fall, he married another Wittenberg COMM Major, Stephanie Sodders (now Groff).

Tyler Hall has been preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ with the West Mason church of Christ as a full-time minister. Tyler and his wife just welcomed their first child to their family on January 12th. They are now residing in Springboro, OH.

2013

Breanne Ziegler was promoted to full time in June of 2017 at Classic Hits KOOL 101.7 WNKO and Buckeye Country 107.7 WHTH in Newark, Ohio. She is a mid-day personality that's on weekdays from 10-3pm with a request hour from noon till 1pm on KOOL 101.7. She also reads local news headlines during the afternoon drive from 4:30- 5:30 on both stations.

Stephanie Davis is currently in Mazatlan, Mexico serving full-time as a missionary with Youth With a Mission. Within the past year she has been leading mission trips within Mexico and Spain. This year, she will be part of a pioneering team for a community center in an underdeveloped community in Mazatlan.

Shelly Gregory is currently working at Facebook in the San Francisco Bay Area as a Content Specialist.

Savannah Guyer lives in New York and works at an advertising agency. She runs the paid social media strategy for the TJX brands (Marshalls, HomeGoods, T.J. Maxx, Sierra Trading Post and Homesense).

Kelsey Dimar lives in Louisville, KY and works as the Director of Executive Communications at Kentucky Youth Advocates, a nonprofit organization that advocates for policies that give children the best possible opportunities for a brighter future.

Kirstie Hansen is currently a Commercial Underwriter at Cincinnati Insurance Companies.

2014

Lindsay Janmey works for Cardinal Health as a Pharmacy Business Consultant for the state of Indiana. She is currently in pursuit of her Masters of Business Administration.

Kirsten Stricker received a M.A. in Art History from Bowling Green State University in May 2017 and received a M.A. in History from BGSU in May 2018. She is also teaching Art History at Owens Community College and considering doctoral programs.

Rebekah Hart just recently moved back to Springfield Ohio and has joined the advancement team at Wittenberg.

Alumni News and Notes

2015

Jess Stankeveh is currently employed with Arrow Truck Sales in Cincinnati, Ohio as a retail Sales Consultant selling pre-owned Semi-Trucks and trailers.

Sebastian G.W. Anderson has a full-time job with Marriott International as a guest service representative manager.

Abigail Gilligan is an ophthalmic technician at children's hospital in Columbus, OH.

Hannah Yalaz has been working at the YMCA of Greater Toledo in Toledo, Ohio for two years as the Digital Media Specialist, and was recently promoted to the position of Marketing Coordinator.

Victoria Perlak is an Account Supervisor at Channel V Media which is a PR firm in New York City.

2017

Emily Aurigemma is working at Jendco Safety Supply in Columbus doing inside sales and is in charge of their social media.

Courtney Huck lives in Cincinnati where she is working at Cowan's Auction as an Intake Specialist.

Macy Winkelfoos is currently an Admission Counselor for The Ohio State University located on the Marion regional campus.

Evelyn Ritzi is working as a Communications Specialist with The Ohlmann Group in Dayton. She handles public relations, content marketing and copywriting, social media management, and market research.

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 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 family, job, wedding, etc. Please send us 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!

2017-2018 Integrated Media Corps

by: Kylie Ponn ('18)



You may have heard the term “IMC” around campus, but may not know the meaning behind this acronym. Integrated Media Corps, or IMC, is a co-curricular initiative with the goal of providing opportunities for students to gain hands-on media productions experience. All students are able to apply for the the paid internship which allows students to work with Wittenberg’s Department of Communication and The Office of University Communications. Accepted

students are then able to gain experience in multi-media fields like content management, video production, PR, photography, social media, and more, all while getting paid!

For me, this opportunity was a no-brainer. I participated in IMC my junior year to help build my resume, gain valuable experience, and get paid while not having to leave campus. The opportunity really did seem too good to be true, but I was pleasantly surprised with the diversity of work I got to be involved in. Previously, IMC has been more athletic-based, with a lot of content being produced for sporting events and the athletic department. But, when I had the opportunity to work for IMC, we were able to independently work on a variety of projects during our “office hours” relating to Wittenberg’s social media channels, website, departmental highlight videos, and much more. The possibilities were endless.

One of the highlights of the year for me was being able to spearhead the rollout of a new social media platform for the university, Snapchat. Seeing the research, test runs, and planning all lead up to the platform becoming an official social media channel for Wittenberg was very rewarding. For those interested in expanding their knowledge and experience within communication or media related fields, I highly encourage you to take advantage of this unique and rewarding experience! For questions about my experience, don’t hesitate to contact me at ponnk@wittenberg.edu or contact Ryan Maurer at rmaurer@wittenberg.edu for more information.

“The possibilities are endless in IMC.”

Communicating in a Global World: Lauren Millisor ('06)

by: Sami Petruzzi ('18)

Like many students getting ready to graduate, '06 Wittenberg graduate Lauren Millisor was not exactly sure what she wanted to do with her Communication degree. Now an IT Program Manager at CBTS, an IT and communications solutions company specializing in Global Data Center Infrastructure Projects, Lauren credits her degree for effectively preparing her for her career.



The August after graduation, Lauren moved back to her home town to work at a small IT company, which enabled her to learn many roles quickly. From there she was promoted and eventually was recruited to be a Project Manager at her current company. After 8 years of Project Management, Lauren was promoted to a Program Manager and has been in the Project Management field supporting IT projects for General Electric for 10 years.

Though she was not even aware of this career field when she graduated, Lauren has found that Project Management is a great fit for communication majors. She now works remotely from her home in Denver, Colorado, and still manages a global team. Many of her classes at Wittenberg taught her important skills such as working in teams, managing risks and conflicts, influencing without authority, and presentational communication skills. Additionally, Lauren emphasizes that Wittenberg taught her how to be independent and self-sufficient.

Lauren encourages students to not be afraid to go to a small company. She credits her first position for allowing her to obtain more opportunities and knowledge that has helped her in her current position. Lauren shares, “If you do well at what you do, work hard and prove yourself, the possibilities are endless.”



“Work hard and prove yourself.”

Study Abroad Experience 2018: Witt takes on Wittenberg, Germany

Walking in Martin Luther's footsteps on cobblestone streets, eating döner and currywurst, sampling German beers, navigating the German train system, living with a German family for a week, canoeing the Elbe River, touring inspiring cities like Berlin and Dresden, and taking in historical sites like the grand castle in Nuremberg and the achingly memorable Lichtenburg concentration camp memorial . . . these are just a few of the experiences that Dr. Waggoner and 20 Wittenberg students from 14 different majors and minors will remember from their spring 2018 semester in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. Students took three courses: German language, German politics, and Dr. Waggoner's Creating the Past: Sites of German Public Memory. They went on class field trips and ventured out on excursions of their own all across Europe. They ended their semester putting their language skills to the test as interns in German schools, business, and laboratories. Here's what some of the COMM majors and minors had to say:



Spain was by far my favorite country. I visited during Easter weekend when Seville was celebrating Semana Santa, a holy week where parades are happening through the streets all day.

I realized my love for sauerkraut, dark beer, and schnitzel. Looking back at my pictures, I miss the food way more than I thought I would have.

Simple aspects of my day such as talking to a cashier at the grocery store and saying "excuse me" when squeezing past someone became difficult since I could not speak the language. It was an adjustment that helped me grow in character and knowledge of the world outside my own.

Leaving Europe was difficult but coming back to Witt made me realize how much I took everything I had for granted. I missed my friends, parents, comfy bedroom at home, and my two little poodles.

I believe I have a much deeper appreciation for my life back in the US and the amazing friends I have here. I am grateful for my time abroad and would encourage anyone who is thinking about it to just go for it.

--Maggie Keverline ('20)



Dr. Waggoner and Students



For my internship, I got to work for a local tourism company called Christian Tours Europe. The name makes it sound fairly religious, and in some respects, it is, but the owner's name is actually Christian, too. Their "Lutherland" tour is the more religiously-focused one, and includes cities and landmarks related to the Protestant Reformation, and places where Martin Luther studied, taught, or preached. The rest of their tours range all over Europe! One thing that makes them especially unique is that they cater every tour to the wishes of their clients, which consist primarily of North American groups. While there, I got to help them draft emails to clients, proofread and write tour brochures, create timed itineraries, put together tour folders, and I attempted to help them redesign their website. I absolutely loved my time abroad, and I would go back again in a heartbeat! I got to visit some old friends, family friends, and experience new environments and bits of history that we just don't have here in the U.S.

--Samantha Martens ('20)

My study abroad experience in Germany was nothing I could have anticipated. I was constantly learning and experiencing new things! In between the full course load and our internships, I did a lot of traveling. I explored all over Germany, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, and The Netherlands! My favorite place was Positano Italy, a small city off the west coast. The cliffs were coated with small pastel colored houses that flooded into the crystal blue waters. Everything looked like a postcard! Meeting friends was facilitated by being "the loud Americans" everywhere we went. However, after a quick conversation the locals realized we were trying to learn the language and would cut us some slack. While there, I made friends from all over the world and I still talk to them to this day. Traveling makes you realize that you may only spend a short amount of time with someone, but it's the experiences that bring you closer.

Dr. Waggoner's communication class aided our travels by teaching us how to analyze and interpret all areas of a city. In her class, we had the privilege to examine European history through a unique lens. We traveled to sites of public memory. This could be anything from a museum to a monument, and even graffiti. With that, I brought back some communication skills as well. It's rare you find someone who doesn't speak English, but when you do, you must be on your A-game.

Studying abroad was one of my favorite Wittenberg experiences. Even though I wasn't in Springfield I learned a lot about the Lutherstadt-Wittenberg history and the foundation our school is built on. I also can't forget to mention the group of 20 Wittenberg students I studied with. Without this opportunity, I wouldn't have met all of them and experience some of the greatest moments of my life.

--Olivia Nortz ('20)

Exploring his leadership: Nick Worner ('03) by: Kat Nydegger ('19)



Nick Worner, a 2003 Wittenberg University Communication graduate, has experienced over 15 years of various work across many diverse disciplines including print journalism, media relations, and non-profit strategic communications. Currently, Nick is serving as the content manager in Cleveland, Ohio for JumpStart, a company devoted to “fostering entrepreneurs, building ecosystems and impacting economies.”

Being part of the first graduating class of communication majors was just one of the many wonderful opportunities Nick took on his journey to where he is now. Before beginning his employment with JumpStart Inc., Nick began working at *Mount Vernon News* for about four years as a staff reporter specializing in investigative journalism. He then began working with Think, LPP serving as senior project analyst by overseeing and supervising interns and project analysts while also gaining experience in conducting interviews. Nick later continued his experience by serving as communications coordinator for ACLU Ohio in the Cleveland/Akron area, returning back to his hometown where he gained more supervisory, public speaking, and writing skills and experiences.

Since graduating from Wittenberg, Nick has experienced a vast amount of leadership opportunities and employment positions that have led him to where he is today. Nick has published several articles providing insight to his readers on his writing career stating, “I started my newspaper career in 2003. It was a very strange time to fall in love with journalism.” “On the whole, the rapid digital democratization of writing and publishing has been healthy for our culture. It has opened more doors than it closed for those of us able to adapt, but it has also enabled a lot of bad habits and given rise to an ocean of undisciplined, overly-complicated fluff posing as ‘content.’”

Wittenberg has given Nick the skills and several opportunities to go beyond his time here, allowing him to explore his individual writing and leadership.

"It was a very strange time to fall in love with journalism..."

From Witt to George Washington University: Mike Southard ('16) by: Lauren Hiller ('19)



Michael Southard, a 2016 Wittenberg graduate, has been putting his communication skills to great use in his pursuit of a law degree. Currently attending the George Washington University Law School and pursuing his juris doctor degree, Michael's studies focus on corporate and intellectual property law. He remembers his undergrad experience as the typical over-involved Witt student we all know so well, involved in several organizations on campus, including Greek Life, Student Senate, and the Pre-Law Association, not to mention working two jobs. This “over-involvement,” however, prepared Michael for long hours and stressful days spent in the library in law school, as he had already done the very same thing so many times at Wittenberg. This adjustment, he says, was not nearly as hard for him as it was for some of his colleagues who came from larger universities.

Michael describes law school as, “A unique experience. It's simultaneously incredibly difficult and remarkably simple (once you figure out the method to all the madness, that is). The purpose of law school isn't to train students to be lawyers; it's to train students to think like lawyers.” He attributes much of his success in learning to think like a lawyer to his experience at Wittenberg. Emphasizing that lawyers are taught to never overstate things, Michael truly believes that there is no overstatement in saying that Witt's Communication Department changed his life. He remembers Dr. Waggoner, Dr. Cunningham, and Dr. Smith (now at Radford University) and their lessons in “how to argue without fighting, how to critically analyze documents and media, how to listen, and how to communicate meaningfully.” These skills, he says, are essentially the job of any attorney, and things that he has carried with him every day, in the courtroom and the classroom alike. These skills are things that he learned and perfected at Wittenberg and is able to put into action after graduation. Michael is beyond grateful for his Wittenberg experience, and is eager to share what he's learned with current Communication students who may also be interested in law school. Students are encouraged to reach out to him at fsouthard@gwu.edu.

"Witt's Communication Department has changed my life."

Faculty News & Notes



Dr. Catherine Egley Waggoner, department chair, recently returned from a week of book signings leading up to the Mississippi Book Festival where she spoke about her new book: *Realizing Our Place: Real Southern Women Living in a Mythologized Land* (2018). In November 2017, she presented research related to that project at the National Communication Association convention in Dallas, Texas. A definite highlight of her year was teaching in the Witt in Wittenberg, Germany, program for the spring 2018 semester. Now, she is teaching a version of the course she taught in Germany, but this time focused on how memory is mobilized to create a shared sense of the past in the United States—with an eye for how this is happening with the Confederate monuments across the South

Dr. Sheryl Cunningham was on sabbatical during fall of 2017. During that time she completed the paper "The Story of an Emerging Energy Issue: National Television News Coverage of Fracking in the United States," and it is currently under consideration for publication in the journal *Environmental Communication*. In June she attended Reimagining Sustainability: Communication and Media Research in a Changing World, a conference for the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers held at the University of Oregon in Eugene. There she presented her paper "Emergent Rhetoric and Public Argument: 2011 opinion coverage of fracking in Ohio." She is also continuing her work as faculty sustainability coordinator on Wittenberg's campus. Last spring she worked with Parkhurst Dining Services and Go Zero Services (a new Springfield-based business) to set up a composting program in the CDR kitchen-- since the start of the program the CDR has kept thousands of pounds of food waste out of the landfill. She also worked with Residence Life to expand the student move-out program; the expansion resulted in the donation of over 4000 pounds of reusable items (chairs, couches, clothing) and food to local non-profits when students moved out in May.



Dr. Katie Warber was on maternity leave in the fall of 2017 after welcoming her first daughter, Penelope Marie Anderson, with husband, Mike. Upon returning in the spring of 2018, Dr. Warber taught COMM 270S Interpersonal Communication and COMM 403 Senior Seminar. Additionally, she chaired the Programming Committee for the Wittenberg Series. Continuing in her role as Grand Marshal, Dr. Warber also served as the ceremony co-chair for the Inauguration of Wittenberg's 15th President, Dr. Michael Frandsen which took place on April 5, 2018. In January 2019, Dr. Warber is expecting her second child - another little girl!

Department of Communication

Faculty News & Notes



Dr. Collier teaches classes in Media Literacy, Media Effects and Public Speaking. His research examines cognitive and affective processing of audio-visual and text-based narratives. He earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. at Ohio State University. He is looking forward to teaching Media and Terrorism in Spring 2019.

Dr. Kelly Dillon teaches media and research-related courses. Dr. Dillon will be teaching a first-year course in Television History, and COMM 300z, Social Scientific Methods, her favorite course. She looks forward to teaching the Senior Seminar next Spring, along with Introduction to Communication Studies. Dr. Dillon graduated from The Ohio State University in 2016 with her Ph.D. in Communication. Her research focuses on computer-mediated communication, cyberbullying intervention, hate speech, and social support. Recently, she has published a chapter in the Routledge *Handbook of Communication and Bullying*, an article regarding anonymity and civility in the *Ohio Journal of Communication*, and a study on representation in reality television in *Psychology of Popular Culture & Media*.



Dr. Stefne Lenzmeier Broz served as Interim Chair this past spring while Dr. Waggoner was directing the Witt in Wittenberg semester. Currently, she is on sabbatical this fall to conduct research on narrative and empathy. She has teamed up with Dr. Kelly Dillon to design and carry out an experiment that seeks to understand various influences on the ability of a first-person narrative story, as compared to numerical information, to evoke empathic responses and more positive attitudes toward members of stigmatized groups. Both she and Dr. Dillon each were awarded \$1500 grants to pursue this research, which is particularly timely given the focus is on attitudes toward immigrants and attitudes toward opioid addicts. She also is developing a Costa Rican Culture and Communication course for the spring 2019 semester, when she will be directing the Witt in Costa Rica program.

Department of Communication

Congrats, Class of 2018!



“Having light, we pass it on
to others...”