



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 _____, our annual Department of Communication newsletter!

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

Alumni Liaison Intern:
Jess Walters ('18)

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:
Aubrey Cox ('20)

Faculty News & Notes



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



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

Lambda Pi Eta: The Communication Honorary

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.

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

by Samantha Petruzzi ('18)

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

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.

2012

Ben Gro 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 Gro).

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 area.

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.

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.

In August after graduation, Lauren moved back to her hometown 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

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

--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)

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 Link, 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.



Dr. Catherine Egly 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:

Congrats, Class of 2018!

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