

A Philly Transition Update

February 21, 2014

Dear COMMunity students, alumni, and friends,

As I write this transition update, we have just received about a foot of snow in Grantham! But this extended, cold winter can't dampen our spirits, as the Department of Communication has received several exciting pieces of news in the past few weeks.



- **Curriculum Update:** We are pleased to announce that all of our curriculum changes have passed the appropriate College committees. Our biggest change is that our Broadcasting major will be renamed Media, Culture and Technology to better reflect the trends in the profession. In addition, the current Broadcasting major concentrations will be replaced with these two new concentrations:
 - Media Production
 - Media Management and Research

As previously mentioned, the Department is also adding a number of courses to replace the upper-level production courses students previously took through Temple University at Messiah's Philly Campus. The following new or significantly revised courses will be added to our cycle of offerings during the next two years:

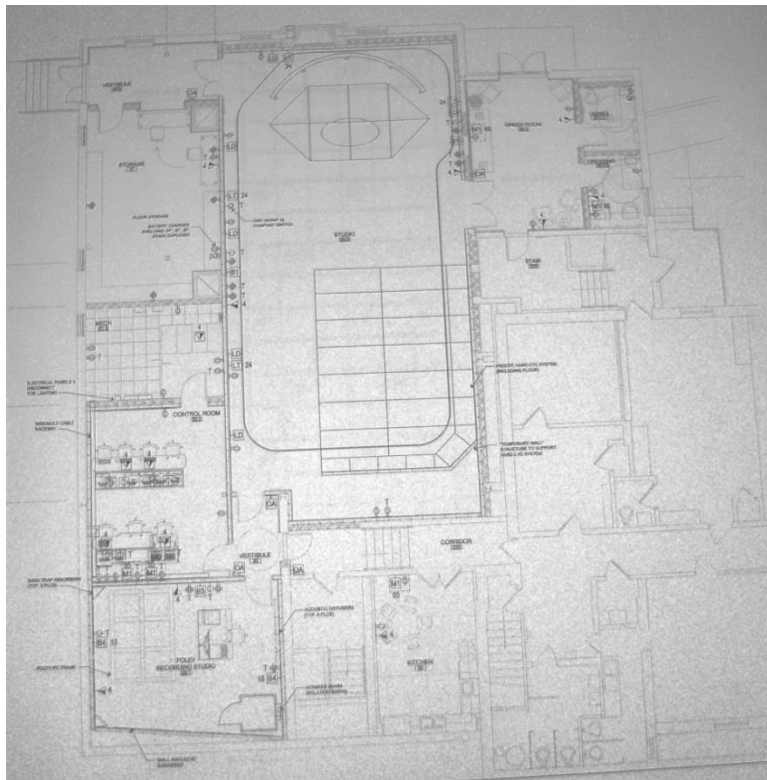
- Communication Design
- Media Law and Ethics
- Alternative Approaches to Journalism
- Topics in Media Production (Television is slated for Spring 2015)
- Topics in Journalistic Writing
- Media Management
- Basic Video and Editing Techniques
- Fundraising
- Film and HD Production I
- Film and HD Production II
- Topics in Film Production (Sound is slated for Spring 2015)
- Junior/Senior Film Projects

The Department will continue offering minors in Communication, Journalism, and Media, Culture and Technology (formerly Broadcasting), and will add a minor in Public Relations. Curriculum lists on the Department website major pages should be updated within the next few weeks.

- **Faculty:** After two arduous searches, the Department is pleased to announce that we have two new faculty joining us next fall! Dr. David Dixon (a Messiah alum currently teaching at Malone in Ohio) will be our new associate professor in the journalism/media, culture and technology areas. Professor Krista Imbesi (a Messiah alumna who has taught at Messiah during the past two years) will be our new

lecturer in film production. We are blessed to have these talented faculty members coming on board, and each is excited to help us usher in our new courses and departmental changes.

- **Facilities and Equipment:** Progress continues on plans for our facilities renovations. We can now announce that the new production studio will be located a large portion of Hostetter Chapel's lower level. A description of the various sections of the renovations may be found in the December 19, 2013, transition update (<http://www.messiah.edu/departments/communication/documents/ImportantPhillyTransitionAnnouncement-webdocumentUpdate1219.pdf>). The blueprint photo included here depicts the large studio space with a simulated newsroom (including semi-permanent newsdesk) at one end and an endless floor, corner green screen at the other. To the left are the large storage/checkout area, a fully-equipped control room, and the foley sound studio. To the right is the green room for on-air talent preparation. Some electrical and HVAC work has already begun, with full renovations starting immediately following commencement this spring. We are still on schedule for completion in January 2015, and appreciate prayers for a smooth and efficient construction process.



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We continue to make small but necessary equipment purchases and upgrades throughout this spring, and will make increased and larger purchases throughout the summer and fall to ensure that everything is ready for our Spring 2015 courses. Additional equipment purchases will occur throughout the next several years. It's a very exciting time for the department!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me (nmccown@messiah.edu) with any questions you may have regarding the Philly transition. We'll continue to keep you updated with future announcements.

Blessings,

Dr. Nance McCown

Chair, Department of Communication

A Philly Transition Update

December 19, 2013

Dear COMMunity students, alumni, and friends:

Although it's been several months since the Department of Communication has provided a Philly transition update, we've been hard at work behind the scenes to move forward with many important issues related to this programming change. Here's the latest news.



- **New Curriculum:** After many, many hours of meetings, post-it note and white board brainstorming sessions, benchmarking comparisons with other similar institutions, and lots of decisions, our Department has now completed our curricular proposals for the journalism, broadcasting, and film and media arts majors. We're revising several current courses and adding 11 new courses to our Grantham offerings. Several of these will appeal not only to the major in which they are housed, but also to other students in the department and beyond. We expect the College's Curriculum Committee to vote on the more than four dozen curricular proposal documents we've provided sometime during the month of January.
- **New Faculty:** Department faculty divided into two different search committees (each of which also included one faculty from outside the department) to review many applications from qualified candidates. For both the journalism/broadcasting position and the film and media arts position, we have narrowed down the pool of applicants and conducted Skype interviews with most semifinalists. We expect to bring two-three candidates for each position to campus in January for their finalist interviews. In addition to many interview meetings with various administrators and the department, each candidate will also teach a mock class and spend a lunch time getting to know students. The Department will solicit feedback from students in both of those settings, which we take very seriously as we make hiring decisions. We're very much looking forward to meeting our faculty candidates in person in just a month or so!
- **New Facilities:** Several Department faculty members have been meeting regularly with Vice President for Operations Kathie Shafer and members of the architectural and design firm working on facilities renovations. Although a campus location has been selected and plans are in final stages, we are not yet able to announce the site. We can, however, say that we are very, very excited about all the possibilities this newly renovated space will open up for our majors. Nearly tripling the size of our current studio space, the designated area will include:
 - A large studio space with corner-positioned, endless floor green screen
 - A semi-permanent news desk for television broadcast
 - A fully-equipped control room
 - A large storage area with dedicated check-in/check-out

- A “green room” and waiting area for make-up, dressing, and other preparations
- A foley studio for sound effect design and recording

In addition, our current green screen room in Murray library will eventually convert to individualized editing suites, with the potential for equipping one of the larger suites as a stop-motion animation lab in the future. Of course, the current editing lab, with its recent upgrades and renovations, will remain in place and continue to be enhanced with additional software as we implement our new curriculum. Although it's difficult to predict an exact completion date for the renovations, we've been assured by Operations that it will be during the 2014-2015 academic year, hopefully in time for the start of Spring 2015 semester.

- **New Equipment:** If you follow the department on [Facebook](#), you've seen photos of some new equipment arriving this fall. You'll be seeing much more of that throughout spring semester, as we are already ramping up with new purchases to enhance our program. But that's just the beginning. As facility renovations get underway this spring and summer, we'll be purchasing hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of new equipment to enable us to offer great upper-level production courses for our film, journalism, and broadcasting students. It will feel a little like Christmas year-round as package deliveries, unpacking, and inventorying will punctuate our everyday routines across the next year and beyond. Check out our Facebook page to keep up with the latest arrivals!



As Fall Semester 2013 draws to a close, I want to publicly thank our Department faculty, all of whom have gone above and beyond to put in many long hours producing and poring over more than 50 curricular proposal documents, multiple versions of architectural drawings, lengthy and detailed equipment lists and recommendations, and more than a few faculty applicant files. They've operated under very tight deadlines to ensure we can make appropriate decisions to keep the transition moving according to plan, all amidst their already very full teaching, scholarship, and institutional service loads. In the end, it will all be very worthwhile as we work to make our programming and facility vision a reality for our current and future students. We can't wait to share more details with you next semester!

Blessings and peace to you this Christmas season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nance McCown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Nance McCown
 Chair/Associate Professor, Department of Communication

Important Philly Transition Announcement

September 10, 2013



For as long as we've offered them, three of our majors – journalism, broadcasting, and film and media arts – required spending at least a semester at the Messiah Philadelphia Campus in conjunction with Temple University. Recently, the decision was made to close our Philly Campus at the end of the Spring 2014 semester. Although it's sad to come to the end of what was a wonderful partnership, we are happy to announce that we are developing and implementing plans which will make it possible for students to complete these majors entirely here at our Grantham Campus! Please read on for details.

New Curriculum: We have developed plans for new and exciting upper level courses here in Grantham that will replace those students would have taken at Temple. Once those courses are approved by our college's curriculum committee later this year, we will be set to begin offering them in the 2014-2015 academic year.

New Equipment: This past summer, we have already added 16 brand-new iMacs with dual monitors to our digital editing suite, along with updated and new software. A wonderful array of new cameras (HD and others), lighting, and other related equipment will also be arriving on campus across the course of the next few weeks. We will continue to maintain, upgrade, and add new equipment every year from here forward so that we stay on the cutting edge of the industry and our students continue gaining hands-on experience with the equipment and software they'll be expected to use on the job.

New Facilities: As our program grows, so does our need for additional space. Currently, our vice president for operations is working with us to identify appropriate spaces on campus to expand and renovate. Tentative plans include a new green screen room and control room, enlarged editing suite space, and increased storage with an equipment check-out and return. As we finalize the location and plans, we'll be sure to share that. We are working towards having renovations complete before the start of the Fall 2014 semester.



New Faculty: We are very excited to report that we are now beginning national/international searches for TWO faculty hires, one in the journalism/broadcasting area and one in the film and media arts/digital media area. These faculty will be settling in on campus late next summer to begin teaching in Fall 2014.

Current Student Options: The Messiah College Philadelphia Campus is still open this year, and many of our juniors and

seniors are studying there right now. For the next academic year, 2014-2015, any current journalism, broadcasting, or film and media arts majors who have met the necessary pre-requisites will be able to spend a semester at Temple University to complete their degree requirements *if they so choose*. Current students will also have the choice to stay here and complete their requirements in Grantham. For those choosing a Temple semester, our School Dean and Provost have worked together with Temple officials to secure designated housing on Temple's campus. Specific details are still being worked out. Interested students in the three affected majors should contact their academic advisors as soon as possible to determine eligibility.

Enrichment Possibilities Beyond 2014-2015: Our 45-year relationship with Temple University has afforded wonderful opportunities for our students to stretch and grow – both academically and spiritually—in an urban setting and major media market. A possible future Temple enrichment experience is being considered among others as the College determines which of our external programs best support the College's mission. We'll share additional details as they become available.

LA Film Internship Program: As part of our emphasis on combining classroom learning and hands-on experience, all majors in our department are required to take an internship. Many of our film and media arts majors choose to complete Temple's LA Film Internship program during summer months, usually



immediately following their senior year (they still graduate on time, but take the remaining credits after graduating). This program is not related to our former partnership between MCPC and Temple, and our students' eligibility to apply for this program is not affected by the Philly Campus closure.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Communication Department Chair Nance McCown at nmccown@messiah.edu.