



So Won't you COMM on Over?

Katie Johnston

The smell of freshly-baked cookies and faces of new and old friends welcomed Communication alumni, students and professors to the department's recent homecoming event, COMM Home.

With smiles, stories and shenanigans guests spent the afternoon partying in Boyer 235, which Dr. McCown's event planning class transformed from an ordinary classroom into a homey living room, complete with couches, coffee tables, lamps and fall decorations from Dr. McCown's supply of everything

anyone could ever need. Laughing, chatting and loud games of Bananagrams filled the air, along with live music from musician and alumnus Jeff Waters.

Trivia questions made for silliness, with guests creatively answering questions such as what item does NOT belong in a media kit, how do you to load a 16mm film camera and the what is the principle behind relationship dialectics.

With a chalkboard-turned memory wall, guests wrote down their favorite Communication Department memories, including festive Fall get-togethers at Dr. McCown's house, and COMM 354 with Professor Kate Quimby. A photo booth allowed guests to create new memories with their COMM family, which readers may check out on [Facebook](#).

Beyond the fun, COMM Home applied classroom learning for Event Planning students. Sophomore Hannah Teklits says,



Editors:
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In This Issue...

COMM Home	1
MCPC	2
Emily Mohler	3
SchreiberDash	3
Difficult	4
Conversations	6
Fabulous Fabrizio	6
LinkedIn	7
Daddy Diaries	7
Internship	10
Opportunities	



“There were so many details to take care of! But we had a fantastic team, and everyone did a great job. At the end of the day it was so worth it... That was definitely the most fulfilled I’ve ever felt at the end of a project.”

The Department looks forward to many more years of COMMing home to the COMM family. 

Caroline Phillips Takes on Philly

Katie Johnston

Senior film and media arts major Caroline Phillips enjoys fall Philly stoopin’ and city livin’ as she spends the semester at Messiah College Philly Campus.

Studying in a city gives Caroline invaluable opportunities and experiences. “With a major such as film, the best opportunities are in the city,” she says. “I loved the fact that Messiah had this partnership with Temple that enabled me to get the best of both worlds. The required semester at MCPC played a big role in my decision to attend Messiah.” Caroline’s Philly experiences have already proved life-changing. Networking opportunities and comfort zone exits provide her with a new fire for her future. “MCPC has helped me realize that I really do love film and all the aspects of it,” she says. Attending MCPC has made Caroline realize her desire to work on indepen-

dent films, with the business and artistic sides of film engaging her the most.

Preparing her for a future in film, projects fill Caroline’s life with a sort of crazy happiness. “Several projects are on my plate right now, which is hectic super fun,” she says. “I would rather be doing this than writing papers!” Caroline’s current projects involve wearing different hats, including producer of Rolando Vega’s senior film project: Palace, Philly comic shop documentary producer, feature-length script screenwriter, and producer of her own documentary. Caroline cannot comment on her script, since she is in the pre-writing stage. Her documentary means she can’t eat Philly cheese steaks, as she goes vegan to experience and understand the lifestyle. Inviting three of her friends to join her, she will document their journeys as they create an inside look into another “culture” community.

Through completing projects and taking advanced film classes at Temple, Caroline appreciates her stellar Messiah education. She explains, “I see my film education in Grantham as a terrific boost up to my classes at Temple. The small class sizes and real hands-on experience at Messiah prepared me immensely for the film classes at Temple.”

A new adventure awaits Caroline on every block. She says, “I’ve been able to experience so much in such a short period of time. Just walking down the street is an adventure.” Caroline daily learns about urban environment com-



Continued on [Page 3](#)

munication, and forms relationships with other MCPC students. "I love the fact that only a few months ago we were all just random students at Messiah, not really associated with each other," she adds, "and now we are all hanging out, talking for hours in the MCPC cafeteria or basement. I'm able to enjoy the same community aspect I enjoyed at Messiah in a city such as Philadelphia."

During her first screenwriting class, Caroline's professor named Temple alumni who became successful screenwriters. Caroline explains, "He started raving about Brian Duffield, who was a MCPC grad! When my professor found out that I go to MCPC, he said that I have some big shoes to fill."

Equipped with a burgeoning film [portfolio](#) and fueled for her senior film project Caroline looks forward to finishing out her coursework back in Grantham this coming spring. From there, she's ready for just about anything!

Caroline is one of several COMM Department students writing for the [MCPC blog](#). Check it out! 

Senior PR Major Wins Scholarship

Jess Kern



Emily Mohler presented with her check from PPRS

SchreiberDash



WHEN: Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m.

WHERE: West Shore E. Free Church

COST: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 day of

WHAT: Come support Schreiber Pediatrics and Messiah College's PRSSA this Saturday

- Registration begins at 8 a.m.
- 5K begins at 10 a.m.
- One-mile walk begins at 10:45 a.m.
- For more info, check out our [FB page!](#)

Every day, different goals and career paths flood the minds of college students. While some dream of entering the medical field with a desire to help others and a closet full of scrubs, others dream of teaching, art therapy, or engineering. Senior Emily Mohler followed her own path to discover her love for public relations early on in her college career, and has since pursued that passion avidly. Recently, the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society (PPRS) awarded Emily its annual scholarship.

Emily stated, "My love of writing and multi-tasking combined with my passion for building relationships with other people led me to pursue a degree in public relations." This pursuit led her to the PPRS Scholarship, an award she received out of four other finalists. Emily set herself apart from her competition with her outstanding academic experience through internships and semester abroad. Her community involvement through volunteerism and leadership in the Messiah Chapter of the Public Relations Students Society of America also assisted her in achieving this scholarship.

"Emily truly embodies what we are looking for in a future public relations professional. Her strong writing and speaking skills, college grades and involvement with internships and the community make her an excellence

Continued on [Page 4](#)

choice for the communications scholarship,” said PPRS President Mark O’Neill.

To congratulate Emily properly, PPRS presented the award at a formal reception at Park Inn on September 27. She delivered a brief speech on how Messiah has shaped her view of public relations. Emily later received a check of \$1,000 in scholarship money. Congratulations on such an accomplishment, Emily! 📄



More than 450 students, faculty, and staff attended Difficult Conversations Goes Political held Oct. 23.

Difficult Conversations Goes Political

Jess Kern

Difficult Conversations returned for its second year on October 23rd—but this time, with a new twist. In the midst of an election year difficult conversations regarding political issues are bound to occur. According to Associate Dean of Students Doug Wood, the initiator of the political angle, “Knowing that we are in an election year, and, knowing that so much of the political realm involves issues in which people are often extremely passionate—to the point of incivility—having this ‘political lens on the Difficult Conversation program seemed especially relevant.” The 90-minute workshop showcased a variety of political conversations that often arise and strategies on how to approach them effectively.

Hosted by the Department of Communication and the Associate Dean’s Team, the event drew more than 400 students and faculty. Four students currently taking Professor Kate Quimby’s Relational Communication class provided the scripts that guided the role plays occurring throughout the night. Prior to the event, Professor Quimby said, “We hope by the end of the evening that the Messiah Community will see that there are indeed healthy ways to discuss differences; hopefully we’ll see those newly acquired skills put into practice here on our campus.” Role plays focused on how to communicate in honest, hospitable ways about topics such as the importance of voting, abortion, and difference in candidate choice. The interactive crowd gasped, laughed, and applauded when appropriate.

In addition to the communication skills fostered at this event, COMM Department students gained real-world experience. Besides the scripts that students prepared, public relations majors planned parts of the event while film students recorded the fun-filled evening and created a brief, “person on the street” interview film to kick off the event.

In addition to receiving alternate chapel credit and a delicious dessert reception, most importantly, attendees learned a truly invaluable skill—how to communicate effectively in tough situations. 📄



Fabulous Fabrizio

Katie Johnston



A mysterious and intriguing aura surrounds Messiah College Film and Media Arts professor Dr. Fabrizio Cilento. A Florence, Italy, native, this film guru spent his childhood immersed in an artistic circle of movie screenings, drama productions, and poetry readings, where he developed his love for the arts. Quaint streets without cars, pleasant open spaces, and close relationships formed in an extended-family community characterized Dr. Cilento's unique upbringing. When he returns to Italy, he still sees his Italian "family."

Dr. Cilento attended a private Catholic school during his youth, and then studied at the University of Florence. There, he graduated in drama due to the film major's crowded nature and the length of time needed to receive a dissertation.

As he explored the arts, Dr. Cilento began writing poetry, publishing his first book at age 21. National newspapers and anthologies published his award-winning poetry, and he presented more than 50 readings in libraries, bookstores, jails, mental homes, and public food markets. Travelling through cities for nearly three years reading his poetry, he became well-known in Florence. When Dr. Cilento came to the U.S., he stopped writing poetry because he began losing contact with his native language, and could not promote his work living in another country. However, since coming to Messiah, Dr. Cilento has begun supervising a student group called We

Will Write, with group president Olivia La Bianca and 29 members. They meet every other Friday and engage with poetry and short story readings and various creative writing activities. Dr. Cilento notes, "This is a way for me to keep alive my previous experience."

Hopeless—or should it be hopeful?—romantics will warm to Dr. Cilento's reason for moving across the ocean. His is a story of love, which he found with Colorado-native Vanessa, a woman working as a biologist in Florence.

After college, Dr. Cilento worked at an American-based Adventist college in Florence, where he taught drama, cinema and language, and developed a love for the digital humanities. His film students responded well to everything he taught, and he enjoyed his students' insights and engaging class discussions; this combination sparked his confidence as he realized that what he constructed on his own, though not necessarily academically recognized, made an impact on students. He learned about the American college life, and wanted to know more. Vanessa, then his girlfriend and now his wife, need to return to the U.S. to receive her master's degree in biostatistics, but with wedding bells in the air, "one of us needed to move!" he said. So he applied and got accepted to a graduate school in Seattle. Dr. Cilento and his wife were married in Italy at a 10th century church that Fabrizio formerly attended. Three days later, Vanessa began graduate school. No honeymoon for these newlyweds!

While his wife worked toward her master's degree, Dr. Cilento worked toward his Ph.D. When he realized the U.S. had young professors with updated movies and theories, and no generational difference or boundaries existed between the professors and students as in Italy, he changed his studies from drama to film.




Join the COMMunity!

Pix from the latest COMMunity events? PRSSA's SchreiberDash? MCPC and Cinemablography? Blogs and vlogs? Check out the Comm Department's latest capers on our [Facebook Page](#), and catch up today!

Continued on [Page 6](#)

Dr. Cilento has presented research at multiple conferences; his work has also been published or is slated for publication in several academic journals, including *Fast Capitalism*, a journal that explores ways that rapid communication technology has affected culture and life, and *The Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*' section on Latin American film. Beyond an essay on Roberto Saviano's book *Gomorrhah* and its film adaptation by director Matteo Garrone as well as one on the Cochabamba War in Bolivia, he is also developing scholarship in his native Italian language. Most recently, Dr. Cilento has submitted "The Missed Encounter with the Actor-Poet: Carmelo Bene According to Ruggero Jacobbi" to the *L'ANELLO che non tiene*, special issue on "Theater and Theatricality in Italian Literature and Visual Media."

Dr. Cilento also brings his passion for digital humanities to his teaching. As a theorist desiring to encourage collaborative knowledge and work with his students, he constructs tangible, project-based tools to help students use their skills and talents. Currently students in his Science Fiction Cinema and Introduction to Film classes work daily on the [Cinemablography](#) and NeXt websites. The latter project, still under construction, helps students think visually about science fiction movies through Internet and DVD pictures. Students upload high-quality science fiction images—robots, rockets, Terminators, spaceships, neuromancers—to a database for both science fiction scholars and a more generalist audience. Dr. Cilento hopes students will complete the database by the end of the semester.

Building on NeXt, Dr. Cilento plans to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts grant to enhance the database through construction of visual maps and moving images. This will make the information visually pleasing and easier to sort, and may prove revolutionary in the science fiction database field, moving Dr. Cilento's students one step closer to achieving remarkable things just as he clearly has. Minus the great accent, of course. 




Dr. Fabrizio Cilento's students update the [Cinemablography](#) website daily with reviews, blog entries, vlogs, and more.

Get LinkedIn with Your COMMunity



As of Sept. 12, students, alumni, and faculty can connect with one another through the Communication Department's LinkedIn account. This online networking group fosters strong relationships, new and old, and provides invaluable resources for current students and alumni. Gaining 40 members in its first month, the group continues to grow as members connect, search for jobs, get career advice, and join in discussions about professional life. All students, alumni, and faculty may join.

[LinkInto COMMunity](#) with us, and see all the doors it opens for you. 

The Daddy Diaries

Jess Kern

Mr. Mom? Think again. In fact, according to Messiah alum Matt Peregoy, class of '05, everyone should permanently "eliminate the phrase from their vocabularies!" Instead, he refers to himself as the primary caregiver to his little girl—her devoted daddy. During his time at Messiah, Matt didn't often entertain the thought of fathering a toddler, but his priorities drasti-

Continued on [Page 7](#)

cally changed upon the birth of his daughter. Since then, Matt has left his full-time career and now spends his days as a stay-at-home dad.

The endless amount of time and effort that Matt used to spend as a manager for a national retailer, he now spends changing diapers and preparing bottles. While some may view this job as undesirable, or “women’s work,” Matt views it as the chance to actively involve himself in his child’s life. And although one aspect of his job involves diapers and bottles, several other aspects accompany it, such as nurturing, educating, and preparing his daughter for life. He considers himself truly blessed that he can fill this necessary role.

In addition to addressing the daily needs of his daughter, Matt also writes about his experiences as a stay-at-home dad on his blog TheRealMattDaddy.com. Through this site, he hopes to encourage other fathers in similar roles as primary caregiver, and discourage common stereotypes at the same time. One time, specifically, Matt used this blog and a petition to pull a stereotypical ad aired by Huggies. This ad portrayed fathers in a very poor light and through his blog, Matt had a voice. In fact, he was given the opportunity to meet at a round-table-discussion with Huggies executives to have the ad reconsidered.

According to Matt, “Dads are parents, too. We can be every bit as nurturing and caring as mothers when given the same amount of training and time with our children.” So, Mr. Mom? No, just...Daddy. And Matt wouldn’t have it any other way. 🇺🇸



Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society Induction: Although the Department inducted 14 new members this fall, 10 are currently studying at MCPC or abroad. Ethan Eshbach, Drew Gehman, Tiff Mills, and Huy Nguyen celebrated here in Grantham on Oct. 4.

Internship Opportunities

Did you know the Messiah College Internship Office maintains an online database of available internship opportunities? Visit the Internship Center website to find the latest positions in communication, broadcasting, film, public relations, digital media, and journalism. For more information, check out the website, stop by the Internship Center near The Falcon, or contact mtrue@messiah.edu.