Communication Department Hires New Film Professor - By Nathan Taylor

As many of you know the Communication department has been without a film and digital media professor this semester. After a nationwide search for candidates, the field was narrowed to three, and interviews were held early last month. We are pleased to announce that the search process is over.

Professor Reid Perkins-Buzo will be teaching film and digital media classes starting in J-term. Perkins-Buzo has an extensive list of credentials and has been involved in virtually all parts of filmmaking.

Originally from Detroit, Perkins-Buzo is currently residing in the Chicago area; although, he has plans to move to central Pennsylvania as soon as possible. Having also lived in Honduras, Italy, and Mexico, Perkins-Buzo will bring a profound international perspective to his film classes.

Presently, he is tying up loose ends in Chicago, and is eagerly anticipating the start of his teaching at Messiah saying, “I am excited to teach at Messiah because it has a growing number of students interested in making films.”

Many of his films, such as the short film The Tortilla Moon, have been featured in numerous film festivals, including the Chicago International Latino Film Festival. The screening was sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, thus making it eligible for an Academy Award in 2006.

In J-term, Perkins-Buzo will be teaching Digital Editing, followed by 16mm Filmmaking and Intermediate Video Production in the spring. His extensive screen writing and film production experience will prove to be quite useful as he instructs Messiah’s aspiring filmmakers.

In addition to filmmaking, Perkins-Buzo also enjoys classical guitar, still photography, holography, and socializing with friends and family. He is especially close to his brother’s and sister’s families and he enjoys spending time with his nephews.

Be sure to join us in welcoming Professor Reid Perkins-Buzo as the newest member of the Department of Communication.

Alumni Profile: Bethany Dennis - by Jennifer Shaver

If any of you happened to flip through the December 1st issue of The Patriot-News, you might have seen an article about the growth of the Christmas tree trade. In the article, 2005 Messiah graduate Bethany Dennis served as the spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association.

“Young families find cut-your-own farms especially appealing with their hayrides, ornament shops, hot chocolate and other experience-oriented offerings,” she explained. “Tree farms are really making it an event.”

Bethany Dennis works for an association management company called Calabrese Heuser Organizational Resource Group. The company is based in Harrisburg, and serves six clients, including the Christmas Tree Growers Association. An additional office is located in State College, and serves seven clients in that region.

Originally from Ohio, Bethany came to Messiah to pursue a degree in communication. During our interview, Bethany expressed her appreciation for the broad knowledge and wide range of opportunities she received while attending Messiah.

As the Communications Manager at Calabrese Heuser, Bethany has a wide variety of responsibilities. She edits newsletters for clients, manages websites, and writes news releases.

In addition, she also deals with media relations and promotional events.

Students in Professor Nance McCown’s Principles of PR class (COM 205) had the opportunity to hear Bethany speak several weeks ago. During her presentation, she shared her experience at Messiah, as well as resume-builders and tips for finding jobs and internships. We wish her the best and hope to hear about Bethany’s future endeavors and career aspirations.
Alumni Spotlights

Erik Crown ‘97 — Communications Specialist at Providence Bank in Baltimore, MD.

Jesse Melton ‘00 — Has returned from a seven-month tour of duty in Iraq. He is stationed at Marine Core Recruit Depot in Parris Island, SC.

Carolyn Johnsen ‘01 — Married Jason Clayton, June 3, 2005. Carolyn is a PR marketing coordinator in the Office of Annual Giving at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.


On campus opportunities:

Work Study
The Department of Communication is looking for a work study student to replace Jennifer Shaver while she is away for the spring semester. Responsibilities include co-writing the department newsletter (The Communiqué), updating the department website, and various other jobs within the department. The position is 5 hours a week, and pays $6 an hour. The student should have strong writing skills as well as an interest in gaining practical experience in the field of communication. Please contact Dr. Ed Arke at ext. 7063, or e-mail him at earke@messiah.edu for more information.

Job Opportunities

Writer/Media Relations Associate
Bluffton University has an open position for the strategic development of Bluffton stories to internal and external audiences, consistent with the vision, mission and values of the university. This is a full-time, 12-month position. Qualified applicants will have a bachelor’s degree and demonstrated experience in professional communications; a master’s degree in writing/journalism is preferred. Send cover letter, resume, news/feature writing samples and three references to: Julie Krupp, Director of Human Resources, Bluffton University, 1 University Drive, Bluffton OH 45817-2104. AA/EOE. Members of under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. Application deadline is Dec. 5, 2005.

Big Science Theatre Public Programs Intern
The Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is looking for a part-time intern to assist the Theatre and Outreach Manager. Responsibilities include developing educational materials to be included in the outreach program and Whitaker on Wheels. The intern must have education in Theatre, Education, English, or Fine Arts, as well as computer experience, strong interpersonal/organizational skills, interest in children’s theater, and transportation. Submit cover letter and resume to: Kimberly Sell, Volunteer and Internship Coordinator, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, 222 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Email: Ksell@whitakercenter.org.

Resources:
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