

COMM Alum Kim Lawton Earns Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award

Emily Carter

At the Homecoming Reunion Celebration Banquet on Oct. 18, communication alum Kim Lawton ('85) humbly accepted the Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award. Each year, the office of alumni relations salutes alumni who have made exceptional contributions to society or Messiah College.

In particular, the Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award recognizes a lifetime of vocational accomplishment that reflects the mission of the college.

Currently working in Washington, D.C., Lawton serves as managing editor and correspondent for PBS' Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, a news-magazine format show that she helped to start in 1997. "We recognized that there was a need in mainstream media for coverage of religion that was intelligent," says Lawton. The program, which reaches 275 stations, highlights the importance of religion in politics and people's lives, without advocating a particular religion.

As a first-year student at Messiah, Lawton knew she wanted to travel, but she was puzzled about choosing a major. Recognizing that she enjoyed talking, her father suggested that she choose communication. At first, Lawton took foundational communication courses. Then, in the fall of her junior year, she took part in the American Studies Program, where she spent a semester in Washington, D.C., working at a radio news

network. It was then that Kim developed a passion for journalism.

After being offered an entry-level position at a radio network in Philadelphia, Lawton made the decision not to return to Messiah for her final semester. Rather, she completed her degree through correspondence courses and managed to kick-start her career at the same time.

When asked to describe a day at work, Lawton responded, "There is no typical day." She fulfills both internal and correspondent roles for Religion and Ethics Newsweekly. Kim relayed that because the show covers news, she has to be aware of what's happening. "I cover wide array of topics because religion touches on everything from politics and pop culture to foreign affairs and Supreme Court cases." As a correspondent, she has traveled to 40 countries, including Turkey, Israel, Italy and several African countries.



Editors:

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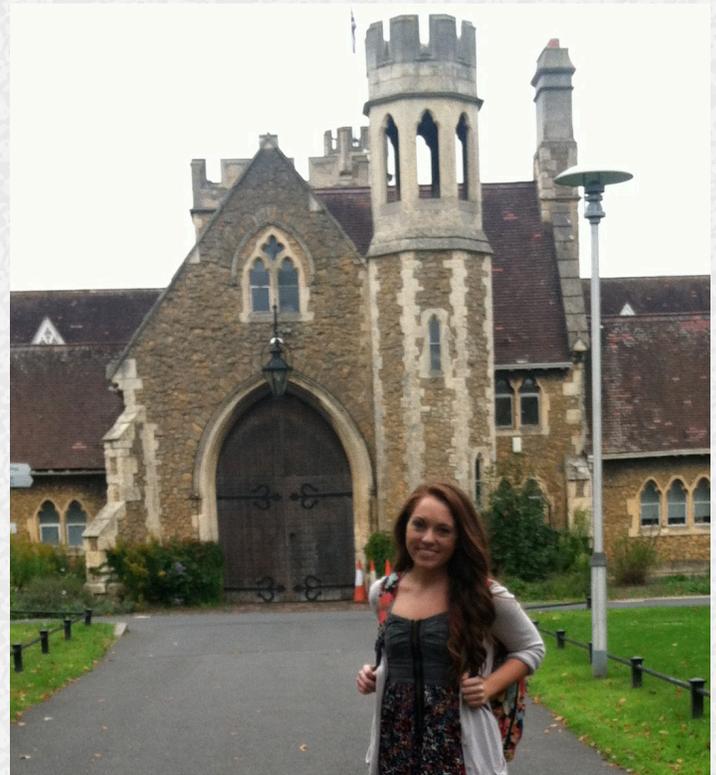
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Lawton's favorite part of the job is meeting people where they are, discussing their concerns and passions, and telling their stories. "I love seeing first hand religion in action.," she shares. "Faith motivates people."

Lawton recognizes that Messiah's commitment to integrate faith and learning as well as the enriching opportunities the college offers have prepared her for her current position, adding "Faith is part of who you are, no matter what you do."

Upon hearing that she had been selected as the winner of this year's Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award, Lawton exclaimed, "Oh my gosh! I'm getting a lifetime achievement award already. It's a great honor!" She feels humbled to receive the award and admits, "I hope I have a lot more to accomplish!"

Lawton urges students, "Don't be afraid, but be realistic. The world of communication is changing rapidly, and we don't know where it is going to end up. It's exciting, but troubling at the same time." She advocates connecting with others to tell their stories and encourages journalists to maintain their standards of excellence. 



wide range of view points that challenge my faith and have helped me grow. In my social politics class, for example, I learned that the debate of creation vs. evolution is not relevant here because very few people, if any, believe in creation. I have readily welcomed all of these different perspectives with open ears and enjoy having the opportunity to be exposed to view points so different from my own.

One of my favorite things about my experience in England so far has to be the accessibility to Europe. It is a breeze to travel around Europe here; I have already made a weekend trip to Barcelona in just the first month of living in England. It has been great living in a country that seems to be so engaged with the rest of the world compared to what I'm used to in the United States.

Although I miss home sometimes, I feel so blessed to have this opportunity to explore the world and soak in so many different thoughts and opinions. I love all of the people I have met here and they are all so different from my American friends—but in a wonderful and exciting sort of way. My experience in Cheltenham has been so indescribably amazing, and everyday I am so happy and thankful that Messiah has made it this easy for me to experience the world in a different way than ever could have been possible back home. 

Study Abroad Brings New Perspective

Kaitlyn O'Connor

Kaitlyn O'Connor, a junior majoring in public relations, shares her thoughts about her fall semester abroad in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Studying in Cheltenham, England, has been such a wonderful experience for me thus far. At first the adjustment was difficult because it was so much independence all at once, but now I couldn't be happier here. Some major things I had to get used to may sound pathetic, but included cooking for myself and allowing a half hour to walk to class since the campuses at the University of Gloucestershire are so spread out. Besides these minor speed bumps in the beginning, it has been smooth sailing since.

I love studying here in Cheltenham because it allows me to see a variety of different perspectives on life. Since the University of Gloucestershire is not a Christian institution like Messiah, there are a



COMMunity students hang behind the front desk at LinkedIn. (Back, l-r: Rachel Vandernick, Jodie Howard, Timothy Chamberlain, Sarah Doucette. Front, l-r: Rachel Grim, Jen Morgan, Jenna Martin, Bethany Seiter, Sarah Goldy-Brown, John Moulton.) Photo by: Christy Hanson.

Students Head Into the City

Sarah Goldy-Brown

While many headed back home over fall break, 10 Communication Department students headed to Chicago with the Career Center's Into the City experience. The trip serves as "an intensive two-day career immersion and networking program, intended to expose students to living, working, and connecting in the city."

Throughout the experience, students practiced their networking skills as they met with Messiah alumni and different companies throughout Chicago. Some highlights included site visits to professional networking company Linked-In, online coupon company Groupon, and the second oldest baseball park in the country, Wrigley Field. Students also explored either Kemper Insurance Company or Intervarsity Press, a Christian book publishing company, receiving a tour, a presentation, and an opportunity to ask questions.

Employees at the different sites offered students some valuable advice as they plan to think about and start their own career paths:

"Family, career, and finances will govern all your choices as you enter the working world. Figure out how heavily each one is weighed for you, and make career decisions accordingly." ~ Bryan Robinson, Vice President of Human Resources, Chicago Cubs.

"When you're driving across [town on your career path] you don't need to know that all the lights along the way are green. You just need to know that the one in front of you is green." ~ Wade Burgess, Head of North America Sales, LinkedIn.

"Be proactive. Seek out your own opportunities, but enjoy your senior year and do not stress. It will all work itself out in the end." ~ Harrison Pinkus, Regional Account Executive, Groupon

Along with site visits, each day contained panelist lunches or networking dinners. During Thursday's networking dinner, PR students enjoyed meeting Messiah alumnus Lucy Leety-Wheeler. Lucy graduated with a communication degree/public relations concentration in 2003. Currently residing in Chicago, Leety-Wheeler works as the Senior Account Executive at Olson PR. She shared advice about living in the city with a family and going after that first job, and encouraged students to spend a semester abroad.

Students also took in the city culture during the trip, including venturing out onto the glass platform at the dizzying height of Willis (formerly Sears) Tower, tasting some deep dish pizza at Giordano's Famous Stuffed Pizza, and checking out the Magnificent Mile, the Navy Pier, the Lincoln Zoo, China Town, and Millennium Park.

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Reflecting back on the trip, Jen Morgan, a sophomore journalism major, can now envision working in a city environment like Chicago. “I could definitely see myself working in Chicago in the future, since I appreciate its clean, friendly atmosphere,” says Jen.

Sophomore broadcasting major John Moulton’s biggest take-away was learning about the flexibility of career options beyond college. “Your major does not limit you in your career options,” he notes. “The skills you learn in your major are transferable to jobs well outside of your major.”

Into the City’s eye-opening exposure to both city and company cultures broadened students’ thinking about their future careers and the career planning process. For more information about upcoming Into the City excursions, please visit the [Career Center](#). 



Center: Film alum Lynn George '11



Photo by: Christy Hanson

Lilliput Productions: Film Alum Launches “Small but Mighty” Company

Emily Carter

“I am a big reader, and as a child I would adapt my favorite books into movies,” says Lynn George (COMM/film concentration '11). However, it wasn’t until she viewed Messiah’s list of majors that Lynn decided to think seriously about film. “I didn’t know what in film I wanted to do, but I loved the idea of not working in a cubicle for my entire life.”

Following her senior year, Lynn took part in Messiah’s Los Angeles Summer Internship Program. “The LA Summer Internship Program is a must do for film or digital media majors. It gives you lots of tips and pointers about building your resume, interviewing, and networking skills.” In LA, Lynn worked as a producing intern for Fallout Entertainment, a company that produces music videos and small film projects. She spent most of her time writing script treatments and drafting concept writings for music videos. “Several of my concepts made it to the big screen. My favorite is Trevor Hall’s ‘Brand New Day.’” Though she enjoyed the beautiful weather and beaches of LA, Lynn decided to move back east after the internship.

In March of 2012, after some encouragement from her mother, Lynn launched Lilliput Productions, a film company that produces training videos, high school musicals, demos, and advertisements. In addition, the company also digitalizes home videos from VHS to DVD and specializes in social media and photography projects.

She explained that the name Lilliput comes from Jonathan Swift’s novel, *Gulliver’s Travels*. “The first island Gulliver visits is the land of Lilliputians, or little people. By themselves they can’t do much, but together they can do big things. That’s me—small, but mighty.”

Lynn described the type of films she enjoys crafting. “The videos are usually short so they don’t overwhelm your entire life. You get to be part of every element of the film process which is fun, and you are constantly working on something new.”

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Since the company's debut, Lynn has had the opportunity to take part in several exciting projects. This past May, she helped produce a training video for The Hershey Company's Chocolate World. "You might have noticed that Chocolate World's costume characters changed this year. Chocolate World wanted a video to inform employees how the new characters act and the roles they play, as well as how to clean the costumes."

In addition, she collaborated with the Hershey Public Library to create three film festivals, which feature series for adults and children, as well as a student film festival, where local contestants can submit their footage. In the past, festival themes have included Hitchcock and Tom Hanks films. She is currently the youngest board member of The Friends of The Hershey Public Library.

Lynn currently serves as film coordinator for The Apollo Awards, run by The M.S. Hershey Foundation. "The Apollo Awards are like the Tony Awards for High School Musicals and plays. Some judges can't make it to every performance so they need a video copy of the production."

Lynn comments that her most rewarding video project has been helping a person with multiple sclerosis make YouTube videos to help people with MS learn how to adapt and think of ways to conserve energy. She has also partnered with the Central PA Food Bank to film training videos, which feature lectures about health and working with people in poverty.

She notes, "No matter what project you are working the next one will always be different. Each one is a learning experience, you might hate it, but you learn a lot from it."

Further, Lynn asserts, "Messiah has given me all the prep to go out and do film. Whether you go into Hollywood, or start your own business, or go to New York, Messiah gives you a nice round education for film."

She encourages students to take advantage of Messiah's study abroad opportunities. "My entire junior year was spent abroad, studying in Philadelphia and at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham, England. Studying abroad really opens your eyes to the world and gives you a deeper understanding of the people and culture around you."

For beginning film majors, Lynn also suggests, "Befriend a senior, and get on set with them. They are a wealth of information, and you can learn a lot from them. Get involved in what you love, and stick with it. Also don't be afraid of failing. The best things in life come from failing. Just pick yourself and try again. The worst part is not trying at all." 

Lambda Pi Eta Welcomes New Inductees

Sarah Goldy-Brown

On Oct. 3, 2013, the Zeta Psi Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta welcomed 14 new students during an induction ceremony. Lambda Pi Eta, the national communication honor society, represents Aristotle's three tenets of persuasion; Lambda represents logos or logic, Pi represents pathos or emotion, and Eta represents ethos or ethics.

Induction into Messiah's chapter requires students to earn a 3.4 GPA in 12 credit hours of communication courses. Qualifying students then receive a nomination, partake in a yearly induction ceremony, and engage in a service project. Congratulations to the new inductees!



With many inductees studying at Messiah's Philly Campus, this year's ceremony was small. Pictured l-r: Sarah Doucette, Katie Johnston, Jessica Kern, Brittney Radford. Not pictured: Mackenzie Alexander, Kayla Caracci, Karla DeJesus, Abigail Ferenczy, Joel Hoover, Olivia La Bianca, Heather Quirk, Daniel Row, Susan Ryder, and Mark Trinkle.

Miles for Smiles

Caitlin's Smiles

Love running? Come out to West Shore E-Free Church on Nov. 9 to support a great local cause, Caitlin's Smiles! Caitlin's Smiles is a non-profit organization based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that delivers arts and crafts kits to children facing chronic or life-threatening illnesses.

5K Run/
1 mile walk

Snacks

Harvest Festival

Prizes

Kid Friendly

Saturday, Nov. 9
West Shore E-Free Church
1345 Williams Grove Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Registration 9 a.m.
Race begins at 10 a.m.

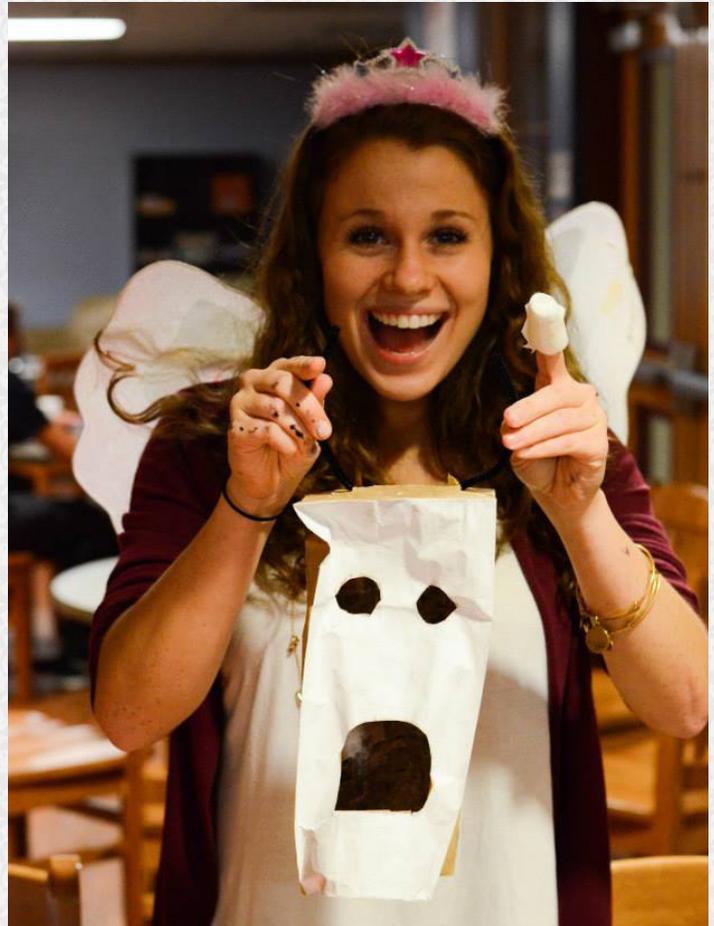
To pre-register, go to our Facebook event for more information.

Pre-registered cost: \$10
Race day: \$15

Run For A Cause

Any questions can be directed to Brittney Radford at br1209@messiah.edu

This event is hosted by Messiah College PRSSA Chapter.



Fall Frenzy Kicks Off COMMunity Building

Sarah Goldy-Brown

As a break from the chaos of midterms and paper deadlines, the Communication Department kicked off its yearly COMMunity events with Fall Frenzy. Students, faculty, and their families gathered in South Side Café for a night filled with speed-meeting, snacks, live music, crafts, and a return of the photo booth. Laughter consumed the room as students dressed up and then posed for pictures as superheroes, fairies, hula dancers, and even camels! Senior Josh Kerr provided live guitar music and singing as department members conversed and enjoyed coffee.

A special thanks to PRSSA for planning and executing the first COMMunity event of the 2013-2014 academic year. For those who missed out, keep an eye out for future COMMunity events!