



Difficult Conversations

Katie Johnston

Ever have trouble knowing how to talk about something “sensitive”? How to confront someone? How to listen, even when it’s hard? That’s what Difficult Conversations, an event co-sponsored by the Department of Commu-

nica- tion and the Office of the President, was all about. Held March 29, this alternate chapel, featuring a series of roleplays and interactive group discussions, gave students and faculty across campus strategies for effective communication.

Students in Professor Kate Quimby’s Interpersonal Conflict class wrote scenarios that portrayed positive and negative ways to approach difficult conversations. The class voted and chose scenarios by Hannah Teklits, Beckah Griffin, Kelly Curran, and Drew Gehman for presentation at the event. Ranging from a hilarious argument about gender roles to Professor Mary Holloway yelling about curfews, scenerios had the audience members laughing, gasping, “aww-ing,” and learning throughout the whole night. Scenarios of bad conversations preceded an interactive discussion about how to improve the situation. The actors and actresses then presented a “rewound” version of how the scene should have gone for a more positive outcome.

The event received great feedback. First-year Kristin Simme says, “I learned that it is important to talk to someone when there is an

issue and to not just let it go. During those conversations, it is good to not attack the other person, but to show them that you care enough about the friendship or relationship to fix it.” She adds, “People like to dance around different topics and I’m glad that the alternate chapel did not.”

President Kim Phipps closed the night thanking all audience members and participants in Difficult Conversations for playing their part in supporting her “To Change the World” series. She also hosted a dessert reception on Orchard Hill for all Communication Department students and faculty following the event.

This successful night of learning demonstrated that good communication can be rewarding—and fun!

Editors:
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Senior Profiles

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Kraft Bollinger



- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Seven Valleys, PA
- Advice: The advice I can offer a freshman or sophomore is to cater your education to your career. When a professor gives you a prompt, find a way to Kraft it into a piece that can flow seamlessly into your portfolio, while simultaneously giving you greater domain knowledge in your field.
- Plans: I will be an Adjutant General officer in the Army where I will specialize in crisis management, which, ironically, my favorite class here at Messiah.



Matthew

Matthew Bookman

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Film and Digital Media
- Hometown: Manheim, PA.
- Advice: For communication students with a concentration in film, make sure to spend a semester or even two interning with a film company that does the kind of work you see yourself doing in the future. The knowledge and hands on experience you gain from a film internship is invaluable and it's a great step to becoming involved with the industry.
- Highlights: Messiah offers a lot of great learning experiences.

My personal favorite would have to be their partnership with Temple University. It was through this partnership that I was able to spend a semester in Philadelphia and then another semester studying in Los Angeles. This opportunity was once in a life time and I am very happy that I did it. I fully recommend to all other film students that you look into the Messiah/Temple Program because it offers such a valuable learning experience that you just cant get anywhere else.

- Plans: I spent this last semester living in Los Angeles and interning with Lionsgate Entertainment. I worked in their feature film post production office. In the future, I would like to continue working in the Film and Television industry by doing film/video editing and other types of post production work.

Rose

Rose Campbell

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relation
- Hometown: Grover, PA
- Advice: Take any opportunities to gain experience. Also, take advantage of the flexible schedule that communication majors have. There is plenty of room to fit in a minor, study abroad, or take other classes in that may capture your inter-

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est. There is also room for students to get internships and gain job experience. All of these options are great opportunities to gain more experience and try new things, whether it's job related or not.

- Highlights: I think that some of the greatest learning experiences that I have gained through Messiah are all of the hands-on experience that I was able to gain through various opportunities on and off campus. I learned a lot during my time at the Contemporary Music Center in Nashville and I would say that that was one of the best learning experiences I gained through Messiah. During my time on campus at Messiah, I think that my PR Campaign class was also very valuable because it gave me some real, hands-on experience with Public Relations, and it also kind of served as a capstone class to all of the other classes I had taken previously.

- Plans: Right now I'm finishing up all of my final projects and papers for my last semester and I will soon finish my internship with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra as well. In the near future I plan to continue searching for a job and deciding where I want to live. As of now I would like to pursue some sort of job in the music industry and I am interested in seeing where this will lead me.



Brian

Brian Clapp

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Smithfield, Virginia
- Advice: Get to know your professors and fellow communication classmates. The professors want to know you and want to invest in your life, not destroy it with grades, tests, and academic work.
- Highlights: Other than that "spin" is a four letter bad word according to Dr. McCown, take advantage of every opportunity you are passionate about and use the counsel of your professors in those passions.
- Plans: Lord willing, work at a Christian Camp in Colorado doing camp marketing and public relations work, as well as leading outdoor activities for camp guests.

Sarah

Sarah Hawkins

- Major: Broadcasting
- Concentration: Media Studies
- Hometown: Landisville, PA
- Advice: I know it sounds horribly cliché, but soak it up. Get involved and you'll be pleasantly surprised when you get a chance to look back retrospectively and note all of the crazy, ridiculous, and downright bizarre things you did whilst in college.
- Highlights: Best learning experiences: In the classroom, I became inspired by Dr. Kate Simcox. Even though I technically graduated in December, I'm strongly considering getting my masters later on thanks to her. Outside of the classroom, I grew the most at Philly Campus.
- Plans: Right now, I'm pursuing a career as an actress, transitioning from working as



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a print model the past few years. Since graduating in December, I moved back home, am currently working at Lancaster Arts hote, and saving up for the big move to NYC this fall.



Caroline

Caroline Hoffman

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Clinton, NJ
- Advice: Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way, and don't be afraid to apply for something even if you think you're not qualified. Messiah has great opportunities to get a wide variety of career-related experience, especially for communication students. When I first applied for the Tracking and Programming Assistant position at

the Agape Center, I thought I would never get it or be good at it. It's a data entry and analysis position, and technology and I don't always agree. However, I love my job, and I've learned how to use database systems and analyze data. That's a transferable skill. While I didn't use the same systems at other internships, it helped me learn their systems quickly. Other things I've done include amateur design for College Against Cancer, a brief writing stint for the Collaboratory publications, the two positions I've held at The Pulse, and co-authoring a paper with Kate Simcox. And don't forget to have fun! Finding the balance between work, school, and friends can be difficult, but it's important to set boundaries and stay focused when you need to and relax when you can. □

- Highlights: Co-authoring a paper with Kate has definitely been my greatest learning experience. I was flattered when she asked me to work with her and thrilled when I was able to make contributions to the paper. I learned first-hand about the writing and editing process. It also gave me confidence in my abilities and myself in general, and a real drive to finish my semester strong.
- Plans: Right now, I'm finishing up classes and working at the Agape Center and The Pulse. I also just finished co-authoring a paper with Kate Simcox. I'm still waiting to hear back about potential summer plans. I've applied for various PR internships and jobs mostly at agencies/firms from New Jersey to California, so where I'll be over the summer and potentially for the foreseeable future is still very much up in the air. My goal for the near future is to work at a PR firm preferably in NYC or out west. If I don't have a paid job, I plan to take some time off and travel to New Zealand, grow a garden, take classes at a community college, and return as a volunteer intern to an organization I've worked with previously.

Ashley

Ashley Hughes

- Major: Broadcasting
- Hometown: Drexel Hill, PA
- Advice: I would tell first and second year students to get involved in the department as much as they can. Take advantage of groups such as PRSSA, the campus radio station, swinging bridge and the PULSE. Also, get to know the faculty within our department. I truly believe that our department has some of the most caring professors at Messiah. Also, try to complete at least one internship. This is essential within our field of study! During my time at Messiah I completed two different internships and I feel that they prepared me for life after graduation far more than any class could.
- Highlights: I think that my greatest learning experience at Messiah was when I



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studied abroad in England the Spring of my junior year. I learned so much about myself and grew in my confidence and independence while I studied and traveled around Europe. I also had a lot of fun!

• Plans: Right now I am currently looking for jobs in both Central PA and the Philly area where I am from. As of now I am not certain which direction I am going to go but I feel confident that Messiah has prepared me to obtain a job within the field I want to pursue.



June

June Lathrop

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Film and Digital Media
- Hometown: Middletown, DE
- Advice: My advice to fellow filmmakers would be to become close to the people in your class as soon as you can and go to the film society meetings—they're a blast! Make movies as much as you can, even if you haven't had all the "right classes" yet because even though they'll more than likely be terrible, you'll learn from your mistakes. For everyone in general, take online classes in

the summer. It's worth getting them out of the way, and do your best to study abroad and have a great internship. Internships at the end of your senior year are something to be seriously considered because then if your employer wants to hire you at the end, you'll be able to accept since you are graduating.

• Highlights: I greatly appreciate the practical filmmaking tricks from Professor Perkins-Buzo and the fascinating theoretical concepts concerning media posed by Dr. Cilento. But I would say my greatest learning experiences at Messiah are things that God has taught me through classes, chapels, fellow students, and my own weaknesses. I think that by seeking to put God and his will first in my life, I have been able to learn much more and function better than I ever could have if my education had been my primary goal.

• Plans: I have been networking a lot and putting my information out there especially in the film/television/media realm, but honestly my next step isn't crystal clear. I know that I may not be able to get my dream job right off the bat, but I am confident that my education at Messiah has prepared me well for maintaining a job.

Jenna

Jenna Liew

- Major: Broadcasting
- Hometown: Easton, PA
- Advice: Internships are one of the most valuable opportunities to learning outside the classroom. You will not regret having several internships to put on your resume when applying for jobs your senior year!
- Highlights: One of my greatest learning experiences at Messiah was my J-Term trip to Ghana, Africa. Going abroad not only allows for you to learn and enjoy other cultures, but it also broadens your perspective to a world beyond yourself.
- Plans: I am currently applying and interviewing for jobs in which I can use my communication education. I want to one day use my skills in communication/media/broadcasting to work for a organization that responds to the most suffering people of our world.



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Leigh

Leigh McCauley

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Communication Studies
- Hometown: Hershey, PA
- Advice: The best advice I can give is to intern with a diverse type of communication organizations. You don't fully understand the field until you have a personal experience in it.
- Highlights: My greatest learning experience was the speech I gave at an event for Ford Motors, with the CEO Allan Mullaly. I was speaking on behalf on a non-profit I represented at the time, one of my greatest memories as a public speaker.
- Plans: My future plans are still unfolding. I will continue to build my business Leighkm photography and seek full time work within account management.

Thank you very much for this opportunity, I am so blessed to be apart of this department.

Heather

Heather Nero



- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Ithaca, NY
- Advice: Do as many internships as possible! The best way to learn is to get first hand experience.
- Highlights: My greatest learning experience at Messiah was to take risks. Don't limit yourself when it comes to creativity and open opportunities. Textbooks don't teach you everything.
- Plans: I am a Content Strategist for andCulture. I have no intention of leaving any time soon!

Evan

Evan Pittsley



- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Middleboro, Ma.
- Advice: Get involved early and often to gain the most experience before graduating college!
- Plans: I am currently looking for a job in Public Relations. I also consult in marketing/pr and campaign management. In the near future I hope to work in a corporate headquarters PR dept. and consulting on the side.
- Highlights: My greatest learning experience was applying the theories and lessons I learned in the classroom to a political campaign. I not only

learned more about the application of what we were learning but how important public relations really is toward making a difference.

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Rebecca

Rebecca Rinker

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Film and Digital Media
- Hometown: Elizabethtown, Pa
- Advice: In intro to Comm, you have to create a portfolio and resume. Keep it and update it as you time goes on and you gain experience, because you'll actually want to use it when you graduate to show employers what you have done. (You'll have to do it in Senior Seminar anyways... If you hang on to your original, you won't be scrambling to put everything together in a few years!)
- Highlights: My greatest learning experiences were every time I was on a film set, especially my senior thesis project. Nothing can teach you better than hands-on experience, and so much I've learned about film production cannot be learned from a book or in a lecture.
- Plans: I actually finished up classes at Messiah in December, and I've been freelancing in film, video, and photography for a few months, mostly doing makeup for shoots and screenwriting. I'm doing an internship with Rutan Productions in New Cumberland until August. I'm hoping to move to LA sometime next fall or winter to do script editing and consulting and eventually I want be a producer in indie or television movies.



Evan

Evan Scott

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Film
- Hometown: Mount Bethel, PA
- Advice: The single most important thing you can do to get a job is research an internship at a company that creates something that you could devote 60-80 hours a week to, in a large city where you can see yourself living when they offer you a job post internship.

Good internships want to give credit, so do it while you're in school. The people you meet while at that company will help find you work once you get out of school. Those people are infinitely more valuable than any good resume or job interview because these people already know you, have seen you work

hard, and will recommend you—and that is how you find work. Most other routes are time wasted. In media, people get other people jobs.

• Highlights: The best learning experiences I had were in my study programs in Nashville and LA. I was working with industry professionals on real projects. In Nashville I toured studios and met producers. In LA I worked on big budget commercial and music video sets, which allowed me to observe and learn the language and roles on film sets. I've worked on commercials for Apple, Starbucks, Volkswagen, Miller Lite, Chevrolet, Motts, and Craftsman, and music videos for OK Go, The Fray, Steve Aoki, Blood Orange, and Electric Guest.

• Plans: I have already moved to LA to work in production. I will continue on the path towards being a cinematographer. I currently shoot low/no budget short films and music videos, and work as a Production Assistant on big budget work.

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Lauren

Lauren Seneca

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Bethlehem, PA
- Advice: I would encourage underclassmen to get involved early. Find a club or group that interests you and take leadership. The Communication Department offers a lot of opportunities that are great for hands on related experience and resume building.
- Highlights: I had a lot of great learning experiences. I would say the best learning experience I had within the classroom was being part of PR Campaign my senior year. It combined all I learned the first three years of college and gave me the opportunity to put it into practice with a real client. It was very difficult at times, but the end result of our project made the journey worth it. The best learning experience outside the classroom was my time spent on the softball field. I am a four-year captain and starter. With those roles, I learned a lot about being an effective leader for my sport and other life situations.
- Plans: After graduation, I hope to land a job preferably in the field of event coordinating. I also hope to get married and coach softball.



Hannah

Hannah Starr

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Communication Studies
- Hometown: Chambersburg, PA
- Advice: Take a risk when it comes to internships and opportunities..what's the worst that can happen? And start to look at jobs early.
- Highlights: My PR classes were very helpful as far as organization and how to present information to the public in the best way possible. Outside of the classroom, just getting to know my professors was very beneficial. They have a lot of experience and advice.
- Plans: Not sure yet, either doing public relations for an organization or working in Disabilities Ministry in a church back home.



Deborah

Deborah Tam

- Major: Communication
- Minor: Communication Studies
- Hometown: Hamilton, MA
- Advice: It's more than okay to be creative. It will give you an edge, and thinking outside of the box is the thing that will make you stand out.

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- Highlights: I started to notice a difference in my classrooms when I started to take risks with my projects, and to express myself. I began to interact with my professors and my classmates more effectively. Once I started to care more, I would sit in a lab for hours just working on a project, and I just felt so great after creating something. It was the most rewarding thing; even if I had negative feedback, I still felt proud of myself. Outside of the classroom, I learned most by doing things for myself such as, creating my blog, working on my design, graphic designing, and having my own experiences.

- Plans: I plan to intern with Jack Wills at the UK for six weeks throughout the summer. From there on, I'm not sure...but I know that it will be the beginning of an amazing career.



Christopher

Christopher Vasaturo

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Film and Digital Media
- Hometown: Morgantown, PA
- Advice: I know that some of the courses you will take might seem like they will be very important, however most all of them will turn out to have some benefits. Try to find something that you really appreciate in each of your major classes and be able to use and apply it to whatever specific brand of communications your most interested in/have a concentration in.
- Highlights: Being a film concentration, I'd have to say my

most important learning experience came from the class, "the art and science of story." I had always thought I'd enjoy writing for film, and it was in this class that I was able to confirm that I really did have a passion for writing screenplays. Outside of the classroom I learned so much through my experience on the track team. This experience helped me learn discipline, time management, but most importantly I feel my team and team members helped me grow in my faith in ways I never expected from a sport.

- Plans: After graduation I am planning on getting a job within the local film industry of the Harrisburg area. I have applied to a few places and am still waiting for responses.

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Warren

- Major: Communication
- Concentration: Public Relations
- Hometown: Salisbury, MD
- Advice: Take advantage of as many opportunities as possible. I can't tell you how much those experiences help during job interviews; they enable you to have specific examples of all your skills in action that prove your abilities. The comm professors provide such amazing opportunities, and I know they can be overwhelming, but just go for it! Also, invest in

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the comm professors - they are some of the most amazing people in this world and they care about you so much!

- Highlights: Conducting primary research about global nonprofits' use of story, leading PRSSA and its campaigns, holding internships with CURE International and Suasion, Marketing and Communications, and creating a campaign from start to finish for Forgotten Voices International during PR Campaign.

- Plans: I currently work for Invisible Children as a regional representative (a.k.a. Roadie), speaking to schools, colleges, and churches throughout the U.S. and Canada (and I LOVE my job!). Next June, I'll be getting married to the love of my life and looking for a nonprofit PR job in Port Orange, Florida.



— *Congratulations Class of 2012!* —

