



Images Speak Volumes: From Daguerreotypes to Selfies

by Katie Irwin, doctoral candidate

For more than 175 years, people have created, recreated, and circulated photographs. Whether they visualize official ceremonies, capture moments of social unrest, or depict everyday activities, photographs have always had a way of telling us who we are.



photo by Della Perrone

Cara Finnegan

Professor Cara Finnegan studies the role that photography plays as a form of persuasion in the public sphere. She hopes that her research and teaching allow others to “gain an appreciation for the way that history can influence our experiences with the present.” In her

Photography and Public Life special topics course, Finnegan encourages her students to see connections among visual media from different contexts and time periods. Her students have discussed links between styles of portraiture that appeared in nineteenth century daguerreotypes and today’s selfies, as well as common visual themes in war photography from the Civil War and the Iraq War. Finnegan explains that her students can expect to be “looking at photographs in more detail than ever before” and learning a vocabulary for talking about visual material. By the end of a semester, students are able to apply that vocabulary to their own critical arguments. “I am invested

in the notion that thinking critically and writing clearly are closely related,” Finnegan explains.

Professor Finnegan cites her undergraduate experiences as influencing her scholarly interests. She was a media major who made television, and those practices got her thinking about how images can be put together to communicate particular messages to specific audiences. In this way, a “practical interest” transformed into a research interest. Every era has its own “new media,” Finnegan says, and people have always had to negotiate technological changes. She has engaged this issue with undergraduate students in the Visual Politics course by exploring how President Obama and the White House have used social media to depict him as president. Conversations with her students about President Obama and the making of his image led Finnegan to think more broadly about how presidents have engaged new media throughout history. She is exploring this idea in her current project, *American Presidents and the History of Photography from the Daguerreotype to the Digital Revolution*, which analyzes how presidents engaged with and helped to shape people’s experiences of photography across its history. Professor Finnegan’s project was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, which will allow her to write full time during the upcoming academic year. She credits the Illinois Office of the



Susse Frère Daguerreotype camera c. 1839

Vice Chancellor for Research’s “Support for Grantseeking in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences” program as a valuable resource for helping her develop the project and secure NEH funding.

American Presidents will study different moments of media change from 1839 to the present, and Finnegan hopes to understand how presidents have shaped photography and the American public’s sense of what photography can accomplish.

Finnegan will soon travel to the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York, to participate in a workshop on nineteenth century photographic printing processes, and to the New York Public Library to engage its early twentieth century photography collection. “I get to learn new things and follow my curiosities,” Finnegan says, and we can look forward to seeing where those curiosities continue to take her. ■

headlines . . .

WORKING TOWARD OUR GOALS



photo by L. Brian Stauffer

Having spent the two previous years in the LAS Dean's Office, I was happy to return to the department last fall, teaching classes again, spending more time with students and colleagues, and diving back into research. I want to extend a big thank you to John Caughlin for his service and leadership during my absence.

This past year was a busy one for the university and the department. We hope this newsletter gives you a sense of the year and the state of the department. Being Midwesterners, we try to avoid bragging, but a publication like this is just the place to tell it like it is. Here are a few highlights of the past 12 months:

Success in the classroom

This has been an excellent year for our students and faculty. We have a bumper crop of new alumni, graduating 321 BA degree candidates, 10 MA's, 14 MS's (from our online Health Comm program), and 9 PhD's! (see back cover for photos of the May convocation ceremony). Among them were 6 undergraduate names to be inscribed on the 2016 campus Bronze Tablet. Forty-four graduating seniors were inducted into Lambda Pi Eta (the communication honor society), 18 graduated with Latin honors (cum, magna cum, or summa cum laude), and 27 earned department honors (distinction or high distinction).

Our teachers in the department received some well-deserved recognition. The campus maintains a "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent," as determined by student evaluations. We are happy to report that 74% of our teaching staff (faculty and teaching assistants) appeared on the Fall 2015 list, a proportion that is well above the norm for departments on campus. We are particularly pleased that Professor Brian Quick and doctoral student Anita Mixon each received a teaching award from the campus Student Senate, and Anita won LAS and campus teaching awards, as well (photos are on the back cover).

Expanding career opportunities for our students

Also in this newsletter you can read about the success of our students after they graduate. A university survey (illinisuccess.illinois.edu) of last year's graduates showed that Communication students had a higher job/graduate school placement rate than most other students in LAS (see page 6). We are working to improve even that marker of success, devising new courses and career development opportunities, including internships.

In your line of work, you might see the growing availability and importance of professional internships. The department has had a very successful internship program for many years. Kate Ditewig-Morris, its newest director, has helped expand the program this year to create more opportunities for students and provide a rigorous academic component to each placement. In our most recent survey of Communication seniors, 67% reported having an internship experience while at Illinois. Those internships provide professional experience, exposure to career fields, and, in some cases, an offer of employment after graduation.

Research excellence

We welcomed a new assistant professor, Lisa Guntzviller, this year, as we bid a sad farewell to retiring Professors Susan Davis, Pat Gill, Marian Huhman, and Dan Schiller (Susan and Dan retired in 2015, see page 7). Our research faculty had a very productive year, publishing scores of peer-reviewed journal articles and chapters in edited books. This year also saw publication of new books by members of our faculty, including those by Professors Ned O'Gorman and Bob McChesney.

The quality of our faculty members' work continues to be recognized by others. For example, Professor Leanne Knobloch was named a University Scholar in the fall, one of only six members of the campus faculty recognized with this honor (see page 7). Professor Cara Finnegan received a prestigious fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which you read about on the cover of this issue. Several members of our faculty have received external funding for their research, as well, including new grants from the National Science Foundation and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

State budget issues

All of these positive developments and activity on campus have occurred against a backdrop of substantial state budget uncertainty in Illinois. Those of you who live outside of Illinois might not be aware that the state government failed to pass a budget for the 2015–16 academic year. This meant that all of our state's universities (and quite

a few other state agencies) went without a full state appropriation.

Every student and recent alumnus knows that state funding represents only a portion of the university's budget. Student tuition pays for much of our daily operations, and the university was able to tap into its reserves to provide the rest of the funding we needed to keep our doors open. Nonetheless, the university was forced to cut the budget of academic units by about 5% this year.

In the Department of Communication, we improved efficiencies in a number of areas and delayed some new hirings. As a result, we were able to absorb budget reductions and continue to offer our full range of classes and services to students.

Throughout this year, the faculty and other members of the department have remained focused on our primary goals: providing a broad-based education that prepares students for the lives they will lead in the future, creating knowledge that benefits society, and serving the people of Illinois. I know that sounds kind of corny, but it really is what we aspire to do.

The faculty and staff of the Department of Communication wish you a productive and peaceful year to come. If you have questions or thoughts you would like to share, please contact me (tewksbur@illinois.edu). I would love to hear from you.

David Tewksbury
Department Head

Department Goes Green

The Department of Communication is now a Certified Green Office! This means that our faculty and staff are participating in a University-wide program, committing to reduce our use of resources and improve overall sustainability in our day-to-day practices. Examples of these practices are setting the default on printers to print two-sided, using videoconferencing to avoid travel costs, recycling of materials in offices and break rooms, and purchasing Energy Star-certified appliances and electronics.

An impressive 88% of our department's faculty and staff completed individual self-assessments of current practices and pledged to engage in more "green" behaviors, indicating a high level of interest and commitment. Our department joins 26 other Certified Green Offices on campus, but the plan is to engage many more campus units with a goal of having 50% of campus staff engaged by the start of the 2020-21 school year. The Green Office program is part of the 2015 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) that spells out UIUC's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner. ■



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Speaking of...Communication

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 College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
AT ILLINOIS

Comm Leaders are 10 years old!

In 2008, former Department Head Barb Wilson asked Professors Ruth Anne Clark and Leanne Knobloch to take on the task of forming an undergraduate group of students who would function as ambassadors for our department, both with alumni and future students. Professor Knobloch and Professor Emeritus Clark, along with some eager juniors and seniors, would be the founders of the Communication Leaders and help set the course of a group that has become part of our department culture.

Students are selected for the Comm Leaders on the basis of academic record and commitment to promoting our department in various ways. They are often asked to serve as hosts at alumni events. As a group, the Leaders have often been consulted for the student perspective about issues facing the department.

Each year, early in the fall semester, Leaders host an event that brings together faculty and our students called “Meet the Department.” They also invite prospective students to “get to know” our department to learn whether our major is right for them. The event is hosted “fair-style” with faculty at tables representing our discipline areas (interpersonal, organizational, health comm, media, rhetoric, etc.). Students are invited to meet and greet faculty members and collect information to learn more about what our department has to offer. And, of course, pizza, soda, and cookies are served! It is a good way for students to talk to other students and faculty members in an informal setting about the opportunities offered by our department.

Current faculty sponsor, Professor John Lammers, offered this comment about his experience working with the Leaders for the past



CMN Leaders, Luke Mulchrone, Brooke Heidewald, Taylor Proudfoot, Becky Verzak, Andie Garcia Sheridan, and Dara Kusumo were in attendance to welcome alumni at the reception honoring Bob Husband



CMN Leaders at spring social pictured here with Professor John Lammers

few years, “The students who become Communication Leaders are both academically successful and committed to the success of our department. That’s a combination that makes for bright enthusiasm! It’s been a great personal pleasure to get to know them as individuals and watch them arrive and immediately get to work helping to enrich the experience of their fellow students.”

Comm Leaders have also assisted with our recruitment efforts in relation to prospective freshmen and transfer students, both those new to campus and those who may be transferring from another major on our campus. They are often our best ambassadors, as prospective students like to meet other students and hear about their experiences. A good number of LAS departments have subsequently formed similar undergraduate student groups.

Jen (Van Tuyle) Crocker, BA 09, one of the early Leaders, had this remembrance, “Being a part of the Communication Leaders was a highlight of my undergraduate experience. We were entrusted with representing the Department of Communication, and my confidence, interpersonal skills, and leadership capabilities greatly improved while I was a member. I received opportunities to lead events, people, and projects, and this exposed me to different types of leaders within our department and all over campus. The experiences I had as a Communication Leader better prepared me for my future educational and career aspirations, including receiving my Masters (2010) in Human Resources and obtaining leadership positions with General Mills.”

Last fall the Leaders assisted with events surrounding the symposium to honor retired Professor Bob Husband as well as hosting a spring social for department students and faculty. It was there they honored Professor Pat Gill and TA Jillian Moga with teaching awards. ■

Stafford Thomas Remembered (1929–2015)

The department learned of the passing of Stafford Thomas (a member of our faculty from 1967–1989) last fall in Michigan. He was 86. He and his wife, Susan Thomas, left Champaign several years ago, moving to Michigan to be closer to their daughter and her family. Susan was also a member of our faculty until her retirement in 2005, most remembered for teaching our public relations course and Public Speaking (CMN 101). She survives along with their children, Virginia (Paul) Jackson and Alan (Kathy) Thomas.



Born in Lynchburg, VA, Professor Thomas held degrees from the Universities of Colorado, Wyoming, and Washington. His entire academic career was spent in service of our department.

Stafford was hired into the Division of General Studies (part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), with a joint appointment in Speech (our department name at the time) in 1964 as an assistant professor charged with the task of teaching the Verbal Communication course sequence, DGS 111 and 112, and helping to train and supervise teaching assistants and instructors who would teach the courses. In 1967 the courses, along with Professor Thomas, were transferred to the Department of Speech (becoming Speech 111 and 112, now CMN 111 and 112) when the Division of General Studies at the time was disbanded. He became associate head in 1968, a position he held for several years.

Professor Thomas made especially valuable contributions to students in the Teaching of Speech curriculum, including teaching the course, *Drama for Teachers*. Especially relevant here was his experience with high school drama. At a time when high school teachers of speech were often called upon to direct the junior and/or senior class plays, Professor Thomas was a gold mine of information, about everything from choosing the play to building the sets and selling tickets. And his natural creativity led to demonstrations of how to make the most of whatever resources our graduates might find in schools large and small.

Stafford Thomas contributed to the camaraderie of the faculty through his gift as a cartoonist. His spontaneous sketches, on place mats in the Illini Union dining hall, for example, provided many a laugh while exposing our fancies and foibles in a good-hearted way. And the staff members who served in that venue also enjoyed Thomas’ humor. A few years after he retired, someone discovered that the dining hall staff collected many of his sketches that were left behind after his lunch visits. Staff members displayed dozens of them on walls of the rooms where they worked behind the scenes.

Stafford Thomas was a respected faculty member serving in various capacities throughout his career here. It is fitting that one of our Tradition awards—which recognizes exceptional service to the department by a graduate student—is named The Stafford H. Thomas Award. ■

Bob Husband Honored

Friends and former students gathered at a reception in October to honor retired Professor Bob Husband and to launch a fund that was established in his name. The Fund is to be used by the department to sponsor events for undergraduates in the areas of organizational leadership and applied communication.

The first event October 5, 2015 was in the form of a symposium panel featuring John Wright, II (Northwestern Mutual), Ryan McPartlin (Actor), and Jill (Novak) Kruidenier (Google), all former students of Bob’s. Undergraduates were invited to attend. Alumni spent the day in-residence visiting classes and meeting with students.

These events were a good opportunity for former students and alums to share some memories with Bob, while at the same time connecting with classmates and current students. ■



Bob Husband pictured here with Ryan McPartlin, Jill Kruidenier, and John Wright



Symposium to honor Bob Husband held in Lincoln Hall, October 5, 2015

Illini Success study results: Communication graduates fare well

University and LAS gain valuable insights into post-graduation plans

By Dave Evensen, LAS Communications and Marketing

The Illini Success initiative has provided valuable insights into the career path of new graduates.

Thanks to a major campus undertaking, the University of Illinois and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences know a little more about one of its most important groups of people—its new graduates. The university today released results of its Illini Success initiative, which surveys new bachelor's degree recipients on their post-graduation plans.

Career data have important implications, from addressing the questions and concerns of prospective students to answering accreditors who are measuring institutional quality. Federal and state governments are asking for more information about the value of a college education and are making comparisons that can potentially be tied to funding of higher education institutions.

The Career Center, with the help of all undergraduate colleges and numerous other units across campus, drove the effort, which, through a combination of surveys, employer and college reports, and LinkedIn data, obtained verifiable information on the early career track of more than 5,700 bachelor's degree recipients in the class of 2014-15.

That number represents 74 percent of the total number of bachelor's degree recipients at Illinois over that time period.

Full results of the study can be found at illinisuccess.illinois.edu.



In the College of LAS, information was obtained for 2,185 bachelor's degree recipients, or 71 percent of the college total. Those data revealed that 77 percent of LAS alumni in the class of 2014-15 who participated in the study had secured a "first destination," which includes employment, continuing education, military service, or volunteer work.

Some 69 percent of LAS bachelor's degree recipients reporting a "first destination" were classified as employed. The average annual salary of full-time LAS graduates who replied for the study is \$49,675, compared to the campus average of \$55,390. The average annual salary by discipline in LAS ranges from \$36,743 to \$66,923.

LAS graduates contribute heavily to the Illinois economy, according to the study. Some 74 percent of LAS graduates indicate they are working in Illinois in the months after graduation, compared to an average of 70 percent across campus.

Primary Status after Graduation by Disciplines and Major

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Primary Status after Graduation by Disciplines and Majors

	N	Employed	Continuing Education	Volunteer/Service	Seeking Employment	Seeking Education	Other
Astronomy and Physics	47	36%	43%	2%	11%	6%	2%
Biological Sciences	441	33%	32%	1%	10%	19%	4%
Chemical Sciences and Chemistry	216	69%	12%	0%	15%	4%	1%
Communication	179	78%	10%	0%	8%	2%	2%
Earth, Society and Environment	71	45%	27%	0%	18%	7%	1%
Economics	237	60%	18%	0%	15%	4%	2%
English and Creative Writing	105	59%	16%	0%	14%	3%	6%
History and Philosophy	56	48%	27%	0%	20%	2%	4%
Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics	73	64%	15%	4%	8%	5%	3%
Mathematics and Statistics	213	56%	24%	0%	9%	5%	4%
Political Science, Global Studies, and Area Studies	184	54%	22%	0%	13%	9%	2%
Psychology	292	44%	33%	2%	10%	8%	3%
Sociology, Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies	80	58%	18%	1%	16%	5%	1%

Blue columns denote those who have secured a first destination.

All disciplines and majors demonstrated strong graduation outcomes, with 66% to 88% of respondents reporting secured first destinations. Some differences were apparent in the types of destinations selected by graduates when compared by discipline and major. For example, larger percentages of graduates pursued employment from Communication (78%) and Chemical Sciences and Chemistry (69%), as compared to other groups. On the other hand, larger percentages of graduates pursued continuing education from Astronomy and Physics (43%); Psychology (33%); and Biological Sciences (32%), as compared to other groups.

Of those LAS graduates pursuing more education, 49 percent are pursuing master's degrees, 18 percent are pursuing professional degrees (law and medicine), and 19 percent are pursuing doctoral degrees. Some 63 percent are continuing their education in Illinois.

Some 77 percent of LAS graduates participated in one or more experiential learning opportunities (internships, assistantships, student teaching, service learning/volunteering, study abroad with internship or practicum components, clinical experience, co-ops, and field experience) while they studied at Illinois. Of those, all ranked those experiences as "very helpful" or "helpful."

Other highlights of the study of the class of 2014-15 include:

- **Communication has one of the highest percentages of alumni securing employment after graduation (78 percent).**
- About 83 percent of graduates from the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics have secured a first destination, which is second-highest in LAS after Communication graduates (88 percent). ■



photo by L. Brian Stauffer

Professor Leanne Knobloch named University Scholar

Last fall, Professor Leanne Knobloch was one of six faculty members on campus named as University Scholar. This prestigious award is based on their demonstrated excellence in research, teaching, and service. She has been in the department since 2002.

This honor carries with it \$15,000 a year in research funding for the next three years. Professor Knobloch is only the second professor from our department to receive this honor. The late Professor Dale Brashers was a recipient in 2004.

Dr. Knobloch also participated in a summit this spring that was sponsored by the Joining Forces Initiative, an effort by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to support military families. The summit brought together teachers, researchers, and policy makers to raise awareness about the educational needs of military-connected children. Knobloch's research focuses on how military families navigate transitions across the deployment cycle. We are proud of her important research and this well-deserved honor. ■

Department Honors Retiring Faculty



A reception was held early in May to honor Professors Susan Davis, Pat Gill, Marian Huhman, and Dan Schiller, who together combined for 32 years of service to our department, which included teaching and mentoring hundreds of our students, both graduate and undergraduate.

Marian and husband David will divide their time between Champaign and their beloved home in Edmonds, Washington to be closer to their sons. Susan and Dan have made a new home and life in New Mexico, while Pat and her husband, Richard, who live in Champaign, plan to travel.

We are indebted to each for contributions during these past years, and we will miss their presence around Lincoln Hall. We wish them the best in a well-deserved retirement. ■



Retiring faculty, Susan Davis, Pat Gill, and Marian Huhman. (Not pictured, Dan Schiller.)

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

You can make a gift to the department online, by phone or by connecting with our advancement officer, Tony Pomonis (LAS '02). Tony expanded the local chain of Merry Ann's Diners from one location to four, and he offers his own experience as proof that a LAS degree equips you with the skills needed for career success. You can reach out to him by calling (217) 300-3470 or email him at apomonis@illinois.edu. Tony travels around the country regularly and may be in your neighborhood soon! Your gift will support the department's continued excellence in education.

Ensure continued excellence in teaching, research, and public engagement by supporting the Department of Communication with a gift!

You can designate your gift to:

- Communication Annual Fund, which supports an array of activities
- Joseph Wenzel Undergraduate Support Fund
- Robert L. Husband Leadership in Communication Fund
- Thomas Conley History of Rhetoric Award
- Ruth Anne Clark Student Scholar Award Fund

You can also boost your gift:

- See if your company is listed as one that has a matching gift program (some even double or triple your gift)

GIVE ONLINE
communication.illinois.edu/giving

SNDQAQ

From the Archives: Students Enrolled in our Department

	1967	1991	2015
Undergraduate students*	282	433	733
Graduate students**	133	57	88

* In 1967, department majors were Theater, Speech Correction, Teaching of Speech, and Speech Communication. In 1991, majors were Teaching of Speech and Speech Communication. In 2015, the only undergraduate major was Communication.

** In 1967 and 1991, the graduate degrees were MA and PhD. In 2015, the degrees were MA, MS (in Health Communication), and PhD.

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LOOKING BACK AT OUR YEAR



Communication Convocation, Krannert Center Great Hall, May 15, 2016



Doctoral Candidate Anita Mixon (center) was awarded the Lynn M. Martin award for Distinguished Women Teachers, a UI Student Senate Teaching Excellence Award, and a Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (TA). She is pictured here with Hyein Lee (BA, '06) and Daniel Byrne (BA, '06), both recipients of the Edward W. Collins & Doris Strickland-Collins Intern Award, LAS 101.



Professor Brian Quick, pictured here as he begins one of his classes, was a UI Student Senate Teaching Excellence Award winner.



Alumni Convocation Speaker 2016, Ryan Croke (BA '05, MA '07)

Got Internships?

Communication students are eager for real-world experience. We offer our students course credit for interning with organizations that put them to work in a supervised learning setting.

Employers who partner with us report that they benefit from our students' communication skills and gain from evaluating the on-the-job performance of potential employees. Communication interns are eager to apply what they have learned to the work world.

If you have internship opportunities to offer or would like more information, please contact Kate Ditewig-Morris via email:

comm-internships@illinois.edu ■

Communication Alumni: Let Us Know What You Are Doing

Please include your contact information along with a list of your accomplishments or personal news from the past year. Send us an email:

communication@illinois.edu ■