



Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Fall Semester 2005

December 2005

Special Points of Interest

- Faculty Spotlight
- The Applied Media & Simulation Game Center
- Jerome Brown '97 Communication Grad
- Alumni Connections
- Dept. message
- Now and Then :
Photography
Transformation

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For the alumni of
Indiana University of
Pennsylvania's
Department of
Communications Media

Spotlight On The Faculty

Dr. Allen Partridge, Director of the Applied Media and Simulation Games Center at IUP, joined the Communications Media faculty last year. A graduate and undergraduate Assistant Professor, Dr. Partridge brings a wide range of skills and experience to his teachings of communications and interactive media.

An undergraduate alumna in Mass Communication from Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa in 1987, Dr. Partridge was a reporter and editor for KTIV Television in Sioux City from 1986 to '87. He then joined KMEG television in Sioux City as the weekend Director. He earned his Master of Arts Degree from Southwest Texas State University (now known as Texas State University), in 1989. He also completed a year of postgraduate study in the Doctor of Education program focusing on college teaching at the University of Arkansas. In his next post, Dr. Partridge joined the Speech Communications faculty at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. From 1992 until 1996 he was an Assistant Professor and Technical Director at The University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas.

His Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Interdisciplinary Fine Arts was earned in 2000 from Texas Tech University. Afterwards, Dr. Partridge



Dr. Partridge advises his COMM 405 Process of Digital Game Development students on their game design group project

taught at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa. There he began investigating the integration of his computing, media and live performance skills. In 1999, he accepted an appointment to the University of Georgia until his arrival at IUP.

While at Georgia, Dr. Partridge authored a book on three-dimensional game design, "Real-Time Interactive 3D Games" published by Sams Publishing in 2002. His book has subsequently been released by Sams publishing as an e-book as well. At Georgia he also taught courses for undergraduate and graduate students in interactive multimedia production. His book and articles along with his service to the community of three-dimensional interactive media developers earned him inter-

national recognition among his peers.

Dr. Partridge's current research and pedagogical inquiry at IUP is centered on simulation design. He is working on projects with corporate partners Massive Software and Simlearn Technologies that investigate and apply simulation technologies ranging from group dynamics and interaction to business applications. Under his direction at the Applied Media & Simulation Game Center, a group of Communications Media students are developing a new product code named Gidget. This new form of global communication, set for a January 2006 release, will allow students to exchange text, audio, video, animation, simulations and still images with one another. *Continued on page 2*

Dr Partridge: Continued from Page 1

Gidget is a multipurpose program designed to function as an interactive desktop application that can run as a computer screensaver. Upon completion, the program will be accessible to students, professors and administrators campus-wide. Partridge said it will "provide a means for students to broadcast radio and television productions, news articles and features, streams of alternative news and information from sources around the world."

Partridge's direction of the Game Center includes facilitation of weekly meetings of a game development club for IUP students. He is teaching students of both the AMSGC and the IUP Computer Club to create a multiplayer 3D game.

Dr. Partridge has also managed to find time to co-author a documentary titled "Blacklist: Investigating the Life of Canada Lee." The film reintroduces actor and activist Canada Lee to contemporary society, as remembered by his widow and friends. Canada's ill-fated career and well-being, following his refusal to call Paul Robeson a Communist, serves as a reminder of the transgressions enacted on civil liberties during the McCarthy era. Partridge worked closely with Director Kenneth Kilfara to conceive and design a moving portrait of Canada's life and investigate the reasons behind his erasure from American history.

Right: Screen shot from Gidget alpha test you can see at www.coe.iup.edu/gidget
Below: Francis Githika and Jeramiah Delach work on Gidget



APPLIED MEDIA & SIMULATION GAMES CENTER

The Game Center's objectives are as follows:

We analyze and create simulation and game technologies.

Predict

Using simulations we investigate behavior, natural phenomena and other systems to predict outcomes.

Educate

We examine current educational simulations and create new ones.



The Game Center hosts the IUP Student Games Club advised by Dr. Partridge. In anticipation of becoming members of the national Independent Game Developers Association, the club was formed in the fall of 2004 with clubs at three other schools around the country with similar aspirations. The club meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Game Center lab in G-12 Stouffer. The students do a range of electronic game-related activities at their meetings. Club members are also working on games of their own. To accomplish game creation, the Center is equipped with 13 custom game stations for general programming and development, two high-end workstations for 3D modeling and rendering, two iMacs for cross platform development, and an assortment of computer game consoles.

Keeping our tax dollars working right...

Meet Jerome Brown, a 1997 Communications Media graduate



Jerome Brown, class of '97

Jerome focused on video production and writing while at IUP, including involvement at WIUP-TV his last three semesters. He participated in the National Student Exchange Program that allowed him to travel to California State University, Los Angeles for film classes. Jerome did an internship at the Pittsburgh headquarters of Mellon Bank to culminate his undergraduate education. He was assigned to the Corporate Communications Department where he did production and writing. After graduation, he worked at several jobs including a software consulting company on the liaison team with writing, marketing and production departments.

Jerome enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh for his master's in Public Administration. He used his human resources and public and non-profit management skills learned at Pitt, along with the communications and technology skills from IUP to get into his current position at GAO. At IUP, he also learned teamwork and brainstorming techniques that are useful at GAO.

"My IUP degree in Communications Media has proved valuable in communicating with other people," he said. Jerome also related that many government people can be understandably unnerved when faced with accountability analysis however, he uses the techniques learned in his undergraduate studies to put them at ease. After collecting data in the organization, the GAO group drafts a report that goes into a reference phase for fact checking. The detailed final report, called a Blue Book, is sent to Congress with an appropriate press release. If you pick up nearly any newspaper, you will see "a recent GAO report says..." peppered in articles.

Mr. Brown's position recently sent him to Russia for two weeks in November 2005. His team's job was to review the Defense Department's efforts to assist Russia destroy chemical weapons.

Jerome is unmarried and enjoys playing rugby in his spare time. He also enjoys volunteering and connecting with alumni in the Washington D.C. area. Learn more about GAO at www.gao.gov. Contact Jerome at BrownJ@gao.gov.



Recently Jerome Brown, a 1997 graduate of the Communications Media Department, was interviewed from his home just outside of Washington D.C. He is currently an Analyst at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the audit evaluation and investigative arm of Congress. GAO examines the use of public funds, evaluates federal programs and policies and provides analyses, recommendations and other assistance to help Congress make informed oversight, policy and funding decisions.

Congress mandates GAO to investigate any area of the federal government. Once the request is made, several analysts like Jerome are assigned to that job, with one person assigned as leader akin to a project manager. "We investigate all areas where federal tax dollars are being spent," he said. "This includes education, transportation, health care, information technology, defense, homeland security and environmental issues."

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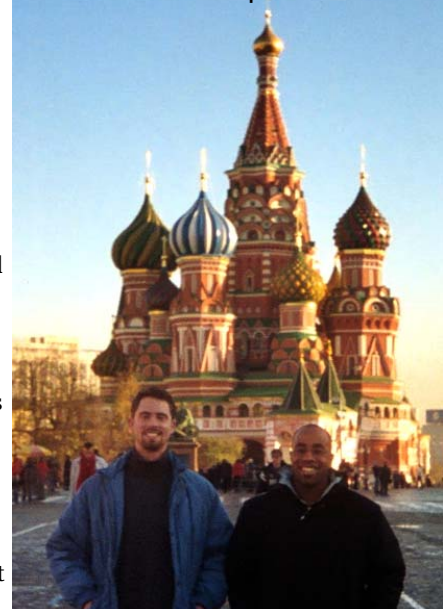
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Jerome and a coworker outside the Kremlin on their recent trip to Russia



Where are they now? Alumni Connections

In this section of the News letter we are proud to update you on a few members of our alumni.

Sean Sadler (01)

After graduation, Sean enrolled in the Adult Education and Communications Technology program at IUP and earned his Master's Degree in 2002. Upon graduation, he was employed by IUP as a designer for the School Assisted Interactive Learning (SAIL) project. After working a few years at Access Data Corporation, he has co-founded and serves as Vice President of an e-learning company based in Pittsburgh, PA called LearningPoint. LearningPoint specializes in interactive, globally-focused, multimedia-based training design and delivery. (www.mylearningpoint.com)

Angela McKeever (05)

After earning her bachelor's degree in Communications Media with a Political Science minor, Angela has continued her education in the Adult Education and Communications Technology program. She is a graduate assistant working in Dr. Dean's office in the Adult and Community Education office. Concurrently, she is working in the campaign office for Pennsylvania State Senator White. At the same time, she does clerical work for S.W. Jack Drilling in Indiana. After graduation, she plans to enter the corporate training field or pursue her Ph.D. (rybl@iup.edu)

Sarah Tourtellotte (99)

Sarah held several positions including Director of Student Affairs at Key College in Fort Lauderdale, Florida since graduation. She has since returned to IUP, enrolling in the Adult Education and Communications Technology program. She is a graduate assistant under Assistant Dean Lloyd Onyett, working in the College of Education and Educational Technology's portfolio center. After graduation, she plans to enter the field of corporate training. (sarah.tourtellotte@iup.edu)



Melissa Wilson (05)

Missy graduated from the Comm Media Department in August 2005 with a focus in Marketing. She is currently living in Reading, PA and works for Century 21 Park Road as the Marketing Director. As Marketing Director, she handles and designs the print and multi-media advertising for the company and their over 100 agents. Missy is pursuing her Real Estate License at the Berks Real Estate Institute in January to become one of 10 fully-licensed staff members. She would like to thank the Comm Media staff and faculty for their continued support throughout her four wonderful years at IUP. (Melissa.wilson@century21parkroad.com)

Kimberly Hays (05)

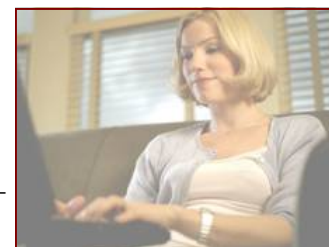
After completing the Communications Media program, Kim has continued into the Adult Education and Communications Technology program. She is a graduate assistant in the Adult and Community Education department. She plans to enter the field of corporate training after receiving her master's. (hkfk@iup.edu)

Aaron Yorchak (05)

Aaron is continuing his education in the Adult Education and Communications Technology program at IUP. As Dr. Kurt Dudd's graduate assistant, he also is responsible for maintaining the Communications Media department website and the construction of this edition of the Link. Aaron hopes to focus his graphics and multimedia skills in the instructional design field after earning his master's. (www.people.iup.edu/qwnk)

Kevin Gaydosh (85)

Kevin lives in Norfolk, Virginia, and is Director of Public Relations and Strategic Planner for O'Brien et al Communications, a leading integrated communications agency in Virginia Beach. In addition to overseeing the PR division for OEA, Kevin provides all agency clients with strategic marketing management counsel and works to integrate all client communications into a more powerful and integrated whole. Some of OEA's clients include: Agio Furniture, Chesapeake Health, Granby Tower, and Bonefish Grill. He is also a regular guest presenter at communications classes at several local universities such as Old Dominion, Norfolk State, Virginia Wesleyan, and Hampton University. After graduation from IUP, Kevin has worked for several Ad/PR firms, municipal government and in the non-profit sector, specifically the American Red Cross. He remains a volunteer with the Red Cross, serving on the metropolitan area's chapter board of directors and occasionally does media relations work on national disaster operations. (kevingaydosh@obrienetal.com)



A quick message from our department Chairperson



Dr. Kurt Dudt
speaks on behalf of the Communications Media
Department

"I would like to wish the best of luck to our colleague, Dr. Charles Kanyarusoke, who left for Sudan, Africa early this fall. Dr. Kanyarusoke is there building the country's teacher prep programs in an effort to repair the damage brought about by two decades of civil war."



Our Mission Statement

As a professional and theoretical emphasis area of higher learning, the Department of Communications Media of IUP is committed to the creation, preservation, expansion and transmission of knowledge.

The Department has the responsibility to include, within its concern, the needs of the profession as a whole and the society at large as its resources allow.

In meeting these responsibilities, the department is committed to preparing students for communications professions. In doing so, it offers quality undergraduate programs in which students learn to design, produce and evaluate media messages.

Please take some
time to
Visit us on the Web
www.coe.iup.edu/cm

The Alumni News letter
"the LINK" was designed
and created by Aaron
Yorchak, Graduate Assis-
tant, Communications
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Special Thanks

Dr. Kurt Dudt
Department Chair
&
Our fellow alumni in every
corner of the world

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Communications Now & Then

The Communications Media Department has had a longstanding commitment to updating and maintaining the quality of the department's technology. Many of you remember the department undertaking the challenge of moving from a film emphasis to an emphasis in video production. This change was necessary due to the emergence of video in both the industrial and entertainment industries. The second half of the 1980's saw the department move from t-squares and rulers for graphics work, to the use of Mac computers for the development of graphic work. Recently, the university has provided generous funds that has allowed the department to upgrade the graphics lab with PCs and software packages such as Adobe Photoshop and the Macromedia suite.

A similar move has been made in the field of audio production. Currently, the department is ending the process of converting its facilities from analog to digital production for recording and editing sound. The same type of transition is now being made in the area of photography. With the purchase of 20 up-to-date Canon Digital Rebel cameras, the department has initiated conversion to digital technology.

The wet photography and darkroom facilities, available to students since the early days of the department, have always been the anchor for the photography program. However, with the latest advancements in digital photography the faculty have been spurred to adapt the curriculum. COMM 471 Electronic Imaging was created several years ago. This class gives students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of digital imaging and manipulation using Adobe Photoshop.

With the purchase of the Digital Rebels, students can sign out and use digital SLR (single lens reflex) cameras that sell for over \$500. As you may have experienced, photography courses were never inexpensive to take. With the



An example of one of the 20 Canon Digital Rebel cameras now available for Communications Media students to sign out

chemicals needed for developing, print paper and film, the class could easily cost a couple hundred dollars before even considering the expense of the 35mm camera. Now students simply sign out a camera and do all their editing on the computer.

Communications Media is trying to keep up with market forces in the industry, and believes embracing digital technology is the best way to proceed. To maintain balance, the faculty is considering adding a minor in photography allowing students to explore a variety of photo principles.

As of spring 2006, the Communications Media Department will no longer offer a course in wet photography. Many alumni will have fond

memories of shared camaraderie in the darkroom with fellow photography students. It may have even been a forum for meeting a future spouse, and it may pain you to consider that future students will be deprived of that experience. However, that playful banter which once took place in those darkrooms will now be transferred to multimedia labs. Space formerly devoted to darkrooms will soon be transformed into a new and additional computer lab to further support digital technology. The decision allows for an integration of graphics and photography in applied settings such as multimedia productions, internet, and gaming.