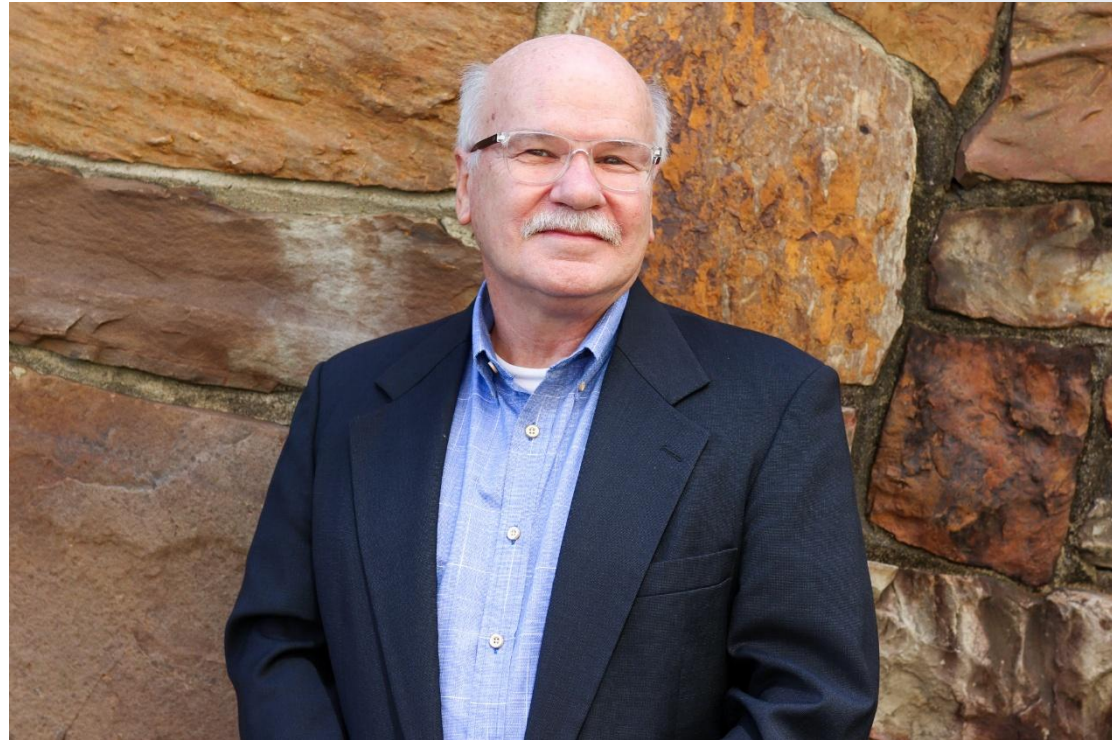


ALUMNI NOTES

Staying In Touch – Valuing Your Legacy



Communication



Dr. Carl Thameling, recently retired and now, Professor Emeritus

Dr. Carl Thameling Retires but Remains Emeritus Faculty

By Carly Tynes Irwin

Dr. Carl Thameling, Professor Emeritus, launched a distinguished 27-year teaching career at the University of Louisiana Monroe in 1998, serving the Communication Program through 2025. He has served as a member of many college- and program-level committees, as well as a mentor for the Emerging Scholars Program. Dr. Thameling has also participated in volunteer opportunities for the National Communication Association and the Louisiana Communication Association.

Dr. Thameling spoke fondly of his time serving the ULM Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) in numerous ways. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the popular fish fry event the CCM holds on campus, as well as in the founding of the Thanksgiving meal event the CCM sponsors each year for ULM students.

Playing an active role in communication research, Dr. Thameling has published numerous articles in the field of communication, and remains active to this day, with two articles currently in the works. His research is published in prominent communication journals and often addresses interpersonal communication among many other topics.

Dr. Thameling had the opportunity to hold a “last lecture” as he ended his career at ULM and it was attended by an extraordinary number of former students and colleagues anxious to share with him the impact he had made on their lives. It was a truly joyous celebration of a career well served!

Having made an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, student mentorship, and institutional development, Dr. Thameling has been hailed as “one of the best to ever do it” by many students at ULM, both within and outside of the Communication Program. His infectious smile and gentle spirit will be missed throughout the halls of campus, but we are all so thankful he was ours for 27 years.

KEEPING UP WITH COMM

ULM ADDY AWARDS

Sophomore major Braden Lofton won a Gold, a Silver, and a Judges’ Award at this year’s ULM Addy Awards, honoring his video promotional work.

COOL INTERNSHIPS

Senior major Morgan Turner served a meaningful internship this spring with a local store, Thrive on Thrift, serving their community mission.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Please let us know what you’d like to see here, how we can reach you, and what’s going on with you!

Scholarship Spotlight

By Ann H. Rodriguez

The Communication Program received an extraordinarily generous gift from the Tan family in the summer of 2025, when Ms. Xiaolan Wang (daughter), Dr. Jun Tan (son-in-law) & their children established the **Tianyu Wang Endowed Scholarship in Communication**. The purpose of the scholarship endowment is to celebrate and honor Tianyu Wang's contributions to the field of photojournalism, while empowering future generations of students pursuing careers in communication, photography, journalism, film, media, or related fields. The scholarship is awarded each year to a senior Communication major pursuing one of the relevant career paths, who has also maintained a 3.0 GPA. Xiaolan Wang, reflecting on the significance of the gift, noted "Our wish is that this scholarship helps them pursue their education with confidence, curiosity, and a commitment to making a positive impact – values that Mr. Tianyu Wang held dearly as both a journalist and a father."

Tianyu Wang was an award-winning photographer, author, and journalist in China. He had a decades-long career spanning news photography, documentary filmmaking, and journalism. He served in prominent industry roles, captured tens of thousands of images, and authored several books. He was a self-taught photographer who dedicated his life to documenting the lives, culture, and voices of the people in Shaanxi Province, believing in the power of storytelling to connect communities and inspire change.

To amplify the impact of the scholarship, the Tan family, supported by the ULM Foundation and the Communication Program, is currently hosting an exhibit of Mr. Wang's photography in the foyer of Walker Hall on the ULM campus. "Through the Lens of Tianyu Wang: Shaanxi Province in the 1960s-2000s" presents a first-hand visual account of this transitional era, highlighting the intersection of art and historical record, while illustrating Mr. Wang's belief that photography presents a way to remember China's brilliant history in order to motivate future progress. The exhibit opened on 2/12/26 and will close on 9/5/26. We would be pleased for everyone to view the exhibit, gain an appreciation for his vision and artistry, and get to know more about Tianyu Wang. [Pictured below: the current Wang Scholarship recipient, Jacob Chambers, with members of the Tan family and guests at the exhibit opening.]



Film & Media Arts

By Heath Hill



Two Communication Program students recently volunteered at the **El Dorado Film Festival**, gaining hands-on filmmaking experience. Nathan Ott, Masters student, and Braden Lofton, sophomore Film & Media Arts major, helped capture interviews with established filmmakers and actors, served as audio-visual technicians, photographed and filmed moments throughout the festival, and absorbed a significant amount of professional guidance from the Festival participants.

"The 2026 El Dorado Film Festival was an incredible experience. It was eye-opening and inspiring to see filmmakers from around the world come together and showcase their work. I met so many great people, and learned about the importance of community and building connections in the filmmaking industry," said Nathan Ott.

The El Dorado Film Festival is an annual event in southern Arkansas hosting independent film screenings and workshops. Through its collaboration with Warhawk Innovation Studios at ULM, we look forward to more students having opportunities for education, professional experience, and career growth in the years to come. [Pictured above: Festival Executive Director, Alexander Jeffery, Nathan Ott & Braden Lofton].

Staying In Touch!

Dr. Ann H. Rodriguez,
Program Director



Another busy but successful semester has seemingly flown by! The Communication Program increased its number of majors by about 10%, and our Film & Media Arts concentration particularly grew by leaps and bounds as our first cohort of majors made their way through exciting new courses like Editing for Film and Audio Design/Production.

Our Masters in Strategic Communication degree program continued its growth as well, with 18 asynchronous online students solidifying skills to help further their careers. We are looking forward to an active summer with a Film Camp for area high school students (see ULM website for registration details), and a half dozen seniors getting excellent professional experience in various internships throughout the summer months! Should you like to contribute to the Program and its various initiatives, please visit the ULM Foundation site for Communication found at the QR code destination. As always, please feel free to email me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have at anrodriguez@ulm.edu. Have a Joy-filled Summer!