

The Communicator



GRAPHIC
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EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

We are a collaborative professional organization in partnership with industry, dedicated to sharing theories, principles, and practices relating to graphic communications. We exist to help our members become better educators.

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Message from the President

Are you teaching in isolation?

Spring is trying to arrive in Southern Illinois. The magnolias and dogwoods are blooming and the peonies are pushing their heads through the especially damp soil, but the temperatures are still swinging wildly between sweater weather and shorts. As someone who teaches in a district that takes more of a spring pause for Easter weekend than a spring break, March was a very long month. The bit of sunshine and the warmer weather have given me the encouragement to make it to the end of the year. As I prepare students for competitions, contests, final projects, scholarships and graduation, spring has always been a time of reflection, and there is certainly a lot to reflect on this year.



Every year is filled with triumphs and failures, but this one has been especially thought provoking for me. For twenty-three of my twenty-five years, I have been the only graphics teacher in my department. In fact, most of the teachers in our Industrial Education and Technology Department are, what we call, "singletons". For the first half of my career, being a singleton never mattered. I taught in an Area Vocational Center with an amazing group of dedicated educators who were also working professionals in their subject areas. Our schedule allowed for breaks between classes and common lunch periods each day which allowed us to collaborate and socialize. We knew each other, trusted each other and depended on each others' talents and skills to solve problems. This all changed with the closing of the AVC and the addition of a new building in 2006 resulting in the consolidation of the vocational programs with the main high school. For most of us, our pre-existing locations and specific structural needs kept us in our original classroom positions which were now fractured by the addition of new classroom spaces for other departments. As the years progressed, schedules changed and there are now few common planning times or lunches. Additionally, alas, there is no time for that fertile collaboration and socialization. As the lone graphics teacher at the end of a very long hallway full of business and art classes, there are now days when I may never speak to another adult or leave my classroom.

What happens when we end up alone and teaching in isolation? Several incidents have caused me to ponder this question and I see three paths that have emerged: Domination, Despair and Retreat. We all hope for a certain amount of influence within our classrooms, but, when left unchecked we have the ability to control and dominate students. This can manifest itself in various ways; building strong relationships with a choice few students while neglecting others or being overtly demanding, inflexible or unyielding to other points of view. Furthermore, when we are isolated in our classrooms and struggling with issues in our personal lives, the responsibility of our student's needs, classroom management and demands of administrators can leave us feeling overwhelmed and desperate. Without a strong support network we see ourselves as powerless in our own lives. Finally, all of us are

President's letter continued on the next page.

familiar with the retreat of teachers out of our schools into business or industry for more money, respect or better working conditions. Fortunately, our school leadership has recognized the need to foster closer relationships between our staff members and is hosting morning gatherings, once a month, to foster a better sense of community. I'm rooting for the change, but it's a lot to fit in before the first bell in the morning.

Through GCEA, I have had the distinct privilege of really connecting with this organization and its community of supportive, collegial members since my first year as a graphics teacher 25 years ago. From my very first conference, I felt welcomed and included. Each time we gather, I learn something new that I can take back to the classroom and I always meet someone new who changes the way I think about my practice of teaching.

The Annual Conference at Clemson will be my 22nd and I will have served on the Board in various capacities for 14 years. Even though I am a singleton, and my room is alone at the end of the hall, I am filled with hope as I marvel at the energetic network of supportive professionals I am connected to in GCEA. I truly do not teach in isolation.

If you are a member, but have not yet attended a conference, make this your year to dive in. Apply for the Paul D. Von Holtz Conference Incentive Award to help cover your conference registration fees and find out why our members return year after year. We welcome you to embrace the connection in real time, and let our outstanding community of graphic arts educators and industry professionals support you in your practice. I am looking so forward to meeting each of you, and having some real fun at "Camp Clemson".

2019 GCEA Annual Conference

July 28–August 1, 2019 in Clemson, SC.



Erica Walker and Charles Weiss of Clemson University are excited to invite GCEA members and guests to come to Clemson University in South Carolina. From **July 28–August 1, 2019**, GCEA will hold its 94th annual conference at Clemson University. Featuring keynote presentations from Julie Shaffer from AP Tech, Doug Pike from XMPie, Deborah Corn from PrintmediaCentr, and Tara Knight from Adobe.

Clemson is two hours from major airports in Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC and only 45 minutes from GSP airport in Greenville, SC. If you prefer train travel, the Amtrak also runs right through town. While you are at Clemson, you will have the opportunity to take in lectures on pedagogy, emerging technologies, and hands-on labs in Godfrey Hall where we have a new Nilpeter, 7-station flexo press, a Mimaki digital press, an HP Indigo, 2 photography labs, and more.

Registration is open now. Further details about the conference,

schedule, Whoova app and costs is available through "<http://clemson.edu/graphics/gceaconf>". Please contact Erica and Charles at elblack4@clemson.edu and ctweiss@clemson.edu if you have questions.

Other News

EuGene Louis Van Roy

(Sept 12, 1948 – Jan 8, 2019)

"He caught the last train, Sorry you missed him"

AULANDER, NC-EuGene Louis Van Roy, age 70, passed away on January 8, 2019 at his residence.



Mr. Van Roy was born on September 12, 1948 to the late Louis and Helen Radomski Van Roy in Sommerville, NJ. EuGene worked as a teacher in the graphics department of Chowan University until his retirement. He enjoyed trains and gardening. EuGene was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend that will be deeply missed by all that knew him.

EuGene is survived by his wife Kathy, daughter Sarah Helena Orphal and husband David of Garner, NC; two grandsons, Braiden Thomas Barnes and Holden Alexander Barnes of Garner, NC; and sister Lona Rae Hawthorne and husband Dent of Mifflintown, PA, along with his namesake to be born later this year, John EuGene Orphal.

Memorial service will be held at Knobles in Elysburg, PA on June 22 and also on July 6 at the Riverside and Great Northern Railroad in Wisconsin Dells, WI. If you are interested in attending any of these services, contact Janet Oglesby at jlo52800@neo.rr.com or Barb Fischer at fischerba@live.com

Gene was a good friend and an avid, although behind the scenes, member of GCEA. For many years, Gene printed all of the materials for the Association and then went the extra mile to produce notepads and to do lists for the Guest bags at the conferences. For Gene, family was everything. His wife, Cathy, and his daughter, Sarah, accompanied him to many Annual conferences as an extended family vacation. His warm smile and folksy humor made everyone feel welcome. He never met a stranger. We were especially blessed to have Gene spend some of his remaining time with us, his GCEA family, at the Millersville Conference last summer. GCEA lost one of its beloved family members.

Educator of the Month

Renmei Xu

Dr. Renmei Xu joined the faculty of the Graphic Communications Management program at Ball State University right after she received her PhD degree in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering from Western Michigan University in 2006. During her 13 years there, she has taught undergraduate courses at all levels, such as Introduction to Graphic Communications, Computer Applications



in Graphic Communications, Digital Imaging, Ink and Substrates, Color Management, Quality Control, and Capstone in Graphic Communications.

In the past two years, Dr. Xu has been an instructor of a virtual exchange course between American and Iraqi students through Canvas. American students were those taking the Introduction to Graphic Communications course with a major or minor in Graphic Communications Management, but Iraqi students were from other fields such as architecture, computer science, computer engineering, etc. American and Iraqi students were assigned in groups and discussed graphic communications topics. They exchanged information about the graphic communications industry in their own country and visited a local printing company. They also worked on a graphic communications notebook project in which they were asked to design a notebook, print all the pages using a digital printer, and then punch and comb-bind them to make a notebook. Students also needed to collect and examine printed products used in daily lives, select some good samples, and mount each sample on its corresponding page in the notebook. During the process, American and Iraqi students shared their design ideas and used peer-evaluation to refine their designs. They also discussed what kind of products are printed in their own country and collaborated on identifying different samples. So far, over 200 students have taken this virtual exchange course, and many of them have told her how this experience opened their minds about another culture as well as another industry that they were not aware of before. She hopes that through this course, more young people in Iraqi would be attracted to the graphic communications industry, and American students had an opportunity to learn more about the Iraqi culture.

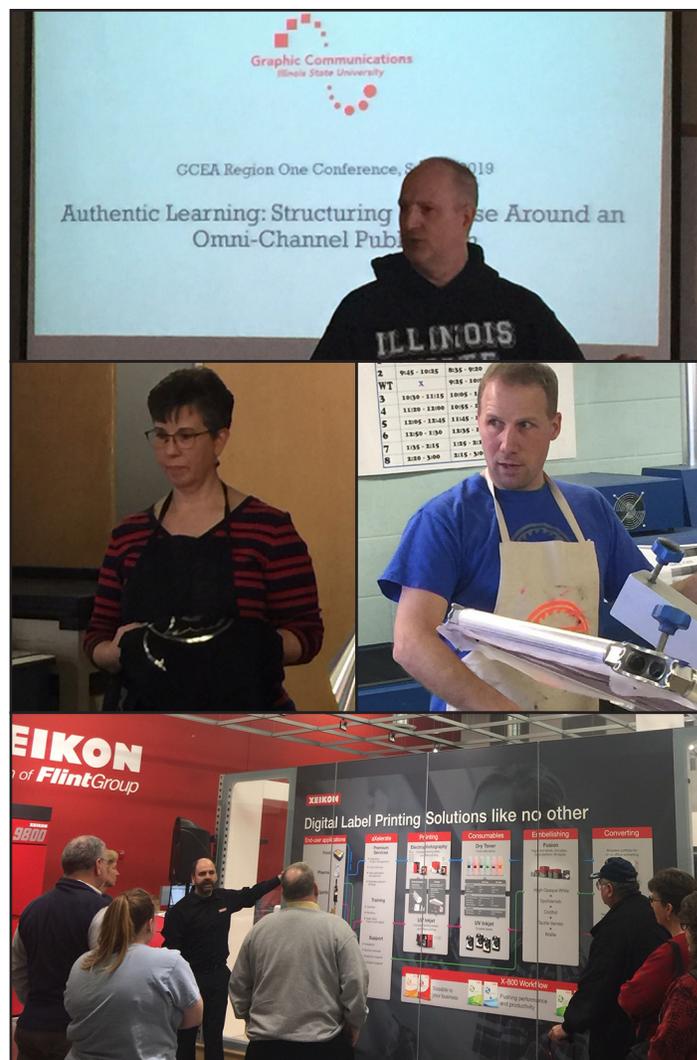
Friday, March 16 Harper College/Xeikon Saturday, March 16 Willowbrook H. S. - Villa Park

On March 15 & 16, 2019, Region One hosted 24 educators over two days to bring together current topics, new ideas, and great camaraderie. The host on Friday morning was Tom Loch, at Harper College, Palatine, IL. Tom presented on logo creation and today's forces that drive brand identity. Both from Harper College, Amanda Loch used original photos and Adobe XD for prototyping and app design to share a new project and Adobe's latest tools; and Larry Zabinski, brought the group together to discuss the understanding of lighting and color balance software that every photographer should understand and use. The group departed to Xeikon Headquarters showroom in Itasca, IL for the afternoon. Donna Covannon, Director Marketing North America Digital Solutions and Ryan Pieratt, Xeikon Demo Room Technician shared Xeikon's vision of digital presses that printed labels to wall graphics, and some with inline finishing on a wide variety of substrates.

Saturday's session were hosted by Dan McCluskey and Courtney

Vala, Willowbrook High School, Villa Park, IL. A full day session of hands on learning was presented. Shaun Dudek, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI advanced the logo presentation from the day prior to discuss brand identity and color management used in the creation of any logo by having students creating a persona or style-tile for their identity that includes colors, fonts, and patterns. Dan Wilson, Illinois State University, Normal, IL had great insights for authentic learning by sharing the how to teach all of graphic communications in one project through an omni-channel publication. Mike Schumann from Warren High School, Gurnee, IL, shared a great take-away and the use of screen printed pennants for marketing his program. Michael Cermak, Rockford Guilford, Oregon, IL, gave ideas and uses for soft vinyl garment decorating via Adobe Illustrator and Plug-ins, and the use for distressed heat press numbers and letters that can be used in conjunction with screen printing to give a unique and vintage look. Lexa Browning-Needham, Alton High School, Alton, IL and Bernice Schopf, Argo High School, Summit, IL demonstrated three applications for foil: screen printing, toner and cut vinyl adhesive. Participants could try their hand at each by making a t-shirt, bag and a laser print with foil.

All projects can be found in the GCEA website and looking under the Region 1 tab.





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*Save the Dates &
Mark Your Calendar*

Fall 2019 Illinois State University
Fri./Sat., November 1 & 2, 2019
GCEA Region One Conference Normal, IL
Graphics—Bridging the Next Decade Vol. 1

Spring 2020 University of Wisconsin-Stout
Fri./Sat., March 13 & 14, 2020
GCEA Region One Conference Menomonie, WI
Graphics—Bridging the Next Decade Vol. 2

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