

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

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ILLINOIS TECH
Department of Humanities



TOP NEWS OF THE SEMESTER

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»»» A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM

We're excited to be updating our degree program offerings, which includes a new B.S. in Information Communication & Data Visualization! This new program is designed to teach students how to communicate well about the complex information and data that flows throughout our technology-driven world today.

»»» STUDENT SUCCESSES

Our students are doing amazing things! From conference presentations to thesis defenses to big grad school acceptances, check out what they have been up to!

»»» WE WON TEACHING AWARDS!

Congratulations to Hannah Ringler and Keith Green -- two of our Humanities faculty -- who won awards for their innovative and excellent teaching!

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Check out the amazing research accomplishments of our faculty from this semester!

»»» BOOKS



Building Inclusive Ethical Cultures in STEM

Professor Elisabeth Hildt and Director of the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions Kelly Laas, along with colleagues Eric M. Brey and Christine Z. Miller, co-edited this new collected volume. This book presents a broad spectrum of innovative ethics education approaches, suggests ways to improve the ethical culture and diversity of research environments, and provides an international perspective on STEM research.

[Check it out here!](#)

Ultima and Worldbuilding in the Computer Role-Playing Game

Professor Carly Kocurek, along with colleague Matthew Thomas Payne, published the first scholarly book to focus exclusively on the long-running *Ultima* series of computer role-playing games (RPG) and to assess its lasting impact on the RPG genre and video game industry. The book “detail[s] the creative choices and structural forces that brought Ultima’s celebrated brand of role-playing to fruition.” [Read it here!](#)

»»» CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Eight Ways of Looking at a Galactic Starcruiser” at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference

Professor Carly Kocurek presented this talk at a panel entitled “Escaping the Script: Fans, Cosplayers, and Monsters Remaking Immersive Media Experiences” (which she also chaired!) at this year’s SCMS conference in Chicago, held in March 2024.

“Halcyon Daze: Documenting and Interpreting the Galactic Starcruiser” at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association’s 45th Annual Conference

Professor Carly Kocurek presented this talk at a panel entitled “Game Studies, Culture, Play, and Practice” at this year’s SWPACA conference in Albuquerque, NM, held in February 2024.

“Wii Bowling Alone: Games and the Loneliness Epidemic” at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association’s 45th Annual Conference

Professor Jennifer deWinter presented this talk at a panel entitled “Game Studies, Culture, Play, and Practice” at this year’s SWPACA conference in Albuquerque, NM, held in February 2024.



CONGRATS TO OUR FIRST DISTINGUISHED COMMUNICATORS!

Last year, we launched the *Distinguished Communicator Medal Program* -- a program for students to go above and beyond in their undergraduate education to demonstrate a commitment to excellence in communication. This Spring we had our first two graduates -- Angela Petrone and Layla Shalabi -- who got to show off their shiny medals at graduation! Congratulations Angela and Layla!



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

➤➤➤ **B.S. INFORMATION COMMUNICATION & DATA VISUALIZATION LAUNCH**

The Humanities department is excited to be offering a new major in Information Communication & Data Visualization starting next year! This major is an updated take on traditional studies in technical communication, reflecting changes in the way the world approaches technology and communication today due to advancements in computing and the era of “big data.” We are excited to begin recruiting students to this exciting program!

➤➤➤ **C-DESIGNATED LEARNING OUTCOMES APPROVED CAMPUS-WIDE**

As part of a campus-wide effort to improve assessment, the CxC program and the Humanities department created a set of standard learning outcomes which all C-designated courses must meet. The spring, the Undergraduate Studies Committee officially approved these learning outcomes. Yay for assessment!

➤➤➤ **NEW WRITING PLACEMENT TEST**

The Humanities Department has been working hard to update its introductory course sequence, and as part of that, have launched a new writing placement test for incoming students. This new test reflects new research in composition around directed self-placement, and is designed to provide a more complete picture of student literacy skills as they enter their college careers. After a brief pilot in Spring HUM & COM classes, It has officially launched for Summer 2024!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our students are killing it! Check out these accomplishments:

Conference presentations:

- **Abby Hanks**, “Playing for Both Teams: Video Games as Protested Media and a Tool of Protest in the United States,” *National PCA*
- **Angela Petrone**, “To Use or Be Used: AI-Generated Content as a Human Technical Exercise,” *Artificial Intelligence and Creativity International Conference*
- **Hana Hanifah**, “Exploring Disability Representation in Video Games,” *Association for the Study of Play Conference*
- **Sara Simon**, “Reengineering Death Registration: The Technology Behind Born-Digital Mortality Statistics,” *ICOHTEC-SHOT 2024 Conference*

Projects & Defenses

- **Sara Simon** defended her M.S. project, “The Voderettes: Gender, Labor, and Techno-Utopia at the 1939 New York World’s Fair”
- **Don Bowers** has been completing his project, “Fun is accessible: Board games” through SoReMo

Next steps

- **Angela Petrone** will be beginning her M.S. in Design at the Institute of Design (ID) at Illinois Tech this Fall!
- **Sara Simon** has been accepted to Northwestern University, where she will begin a Ph.D. in History this Fall!



NEWS AND ART

CARLY KOCUREK IS MAKING A DOCUMENTARY!

Carly Kocurek is a producer and lead researcher for a documentary project called, "Halcyon Daze: The Final Voyages of Disney's Star Wars Galactic Starcruiser." Check out the [first trailer for the project](#), and hear Carly talk about this project on the [Heroes of Halcyon podcast!](#)

DID YOU SEE US AT THE CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL?

We were there! On April 13, Jennifer deWinter presented as part of a panel called, "The Verge AI Sessions: Art Creator or Thief?" Then on May 18, Carly Kocurek moderated a talk by Caro Murphy on interactive experience design. Murphy is leading the vanguard in the emerging field and art form of interactive, experiential, and live-action game design. Congrats, Jennifer and Carly!

TO THE THEATER!

Adjunct professor Kat Evans has written a play about the tumultuous religious conflict in the years after the Great Chicago Fire. It had two public readings on May 5 & 7 featuring prominent Chicago actors. Congratulations, Kat!

AWARDS

Professors Hannah Ringler and Keith Green were honored at this year's 2024 Excellence in Teaching Awards ceremony! Hannah won "The CLI Digital Teaching Innovation Award" and Keith won the "Bauer Family Undergraduate Teaching Award". Well done, Hannah and Keith!!



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