

The Communicator



GRAPHIC
COMMUNICATIONS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

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

CONNECT WITH US



[gceaonline](#)



[#GCEAonline](#)



Graphic Communications
Education Association



Find this and previous issues
of The Communicator at

GCEAONLINE.ORG

Message from the President



Season's Greetings from Laura Roberts, GCEA President

As we embrace this festive time of year, I want to extend my warmest holiday wishes to each of you on behalf of the Graphic Communications Education Association. This season is a time to reflect on the milestones we've achieved and to anticipate the exciting opportunities ahead.

The GCEA Board has been hard at work on several initiatives. We've been collaborating with the Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation (PGSF) to update our Constitution

and Bylaws, revamping the GCEA website, and preparing for a monumental occasion—our 100-year conference!

We are thrilled to invite you to join us in celebrating a century of graphic communication education at our 2025 Graphic Communications Educators' Conference, taking place July 20-23, 2025, in Alpharetta, GA, just outside Atlanta.

This milestone event promises to be extraordinary, as we work with partners like HP and Heidelberg USA to craft an unforgettable three-day experience. It's a perfect opportunity to reconnect with friends, meet new peers, and engage with industry leaders as we envision the future of education and graphic communications.

Stay tuned for more details, including hotel options, the conference agenda, and a call for presentations. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to reach out at pgsfmarketing@gmail.com

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and looking forward to celebrating this historic occasion together next summer!

Warm regards,

Laura Roberts

President, Graphic Communications Education Association



Recap of the 99th Annual GCEA Conference – Alton, Illinois

The 99th Annual Graphic Communications Education Association (GCEA) Conference, held July 21–24, 2024, in Alton, Illinois, was an unforgettable blend of education, innovation, and networking. Hosted in the vibrant community of Alton, the conference brought together educators and professionals for an engaging program filled with workshops, presentations, and social events. Here’s a look back at this remarkable event.

SUNDAY, JULY 21: Welcome to Alton

The conference began with registration at the Comfort Inn Alton, where attendees checked in and received their event materials. In the evening, participants explored Alton’s local dining options, with recommendations including Chapala Mexican Grill, Alton Sports Tap, and the iconic Fast Eddie’s Bon Air. This informal kickoff set a welcoming tone for the week ahead.

MONDAY, JULY 22: A Day of Inspiration and Learning

Location: Alton High School

The first full day opened with a warm welcome from Conference Host Lexa Browning-Needham, GCEA President Laura Roberts, and local school district officials.

Keynote

Daniel T. Thornton, Master Photographer

Dan Thornton is a Master photographer and certified by the Professional Photographers of America and honored with a fellowship from the American Society of Photography.

He shared his journey, experience and insights to elevate everyone’s lens to capture stellar images.

Morning Workshops

Attendees selected from a diverse lineup of sessions, including:

- From Chaos to Clarity by Rion Huffman: Tips on using Trello for classroom management.
- Unleashing Creativity by Rocky Restivo: Hands-on exploration of light painting techniques.
- Engaging Students in Graphic Content by Devang Mehta: Strategies to make graphic learning impactful.

Afternoon Sessions

- Sustainability in Paper and Packaging by Jules VanSant and Screen Printing Gradients and Halftones by Tom Loch provided practical and forward-thinking perspectives.
- drupa the Next Age by John Craft highlighted global printing innovations.

Evening Event

Participants enjoyed a relaxing Grafton Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi River, fostering camaraderie amid picturesque views.

TUESDAY, JULY 23: Exploring Industry and Community

The day began with a visit to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, where attendees appreciated its serene landscapes and educational exhibits. Lunch at Favazza’s on The Hill introduced participants to the rich culinary traditions of St. Louis.

Industry Tours

The afternoon included tours of Presort Inc. and Modern Litho, offering a firsthand look at modern printing and mailing operations.

Gateway Arch Experience

The group capped off the day with a tram ride to the top of the Gateway Arch, followed by dinner at Bluff City Grill.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24: Shaping the Future of Graphic Communications

The final day of the conference focused on equipping educators with cutting-edge tools and strategies:

- Rion Huffman's session on Harnessing AI in Education showcased how artificial intelligence is transforming the classroom.
- Workshops like Snap, Edit, Share by Rocky Restivo and Figma Essentials by Jason Reid emphasized skills for next-generation creators.

GCEA Business Meeting

During the lunch session, members reviewed key updates and discussed plans for the future, including preparations for the 100th Annual Conference in 2025.

Closing Awards Banquet

The conference concluded with a celebratory banquet at the Best Western Premier. Attendees honored outstanding contributions to the field and celebrated the success of the event.

A Week to Remember

The 99th GCEA Conference exemplified the organization's commitment to advancing graphic communication education through innovation, collaboration, and community. Attendees departed with fresh ideas, new connections, and excitement for the centennial conference next year.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025 as we celebrate GCEA's 100th Anniversary and continue shaping the future of graphic communications!



2024 Award Wrap Up!

We honored the following GCEA award recipients for their commitment to the organization, our communities and education. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding individuals!

- Robert L. Cox Service to the Association Award - **Malcolm Keif**
- Sundeen/Simich Sustaining Members Award - **Julie Shaffer**
- Hartman/Dennis Support of Education Award - **Monika Alters**
- Kagy/Prust Life Achievement Award - **Shaun Dudek**



100 Years 2025 Annual Conference:

Save the Dates – July 20-23 outside of Atlanta, GA



Call for Presentations:

Email info@gceaonline.org for the link to submit or go to gceaonline.org to the 2025 Conference Page.



2025 Student Contests: These are currently being reworked to ensure all students in all graphic programs can submit their work for recognition/awards. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Opportunities: Check out the job board!
Not a member? Join Today - GCEAonline.org



GRAPHIC
COMMUNICATIONS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 15348 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

GCEA Board of Directors

Laura Roberts, PRESIDENT

[Mattoon High School, Mattoon, IL](#)
217-238-7785 | president@gceaonline.org

Amanda Bridges, PRESIDENT-ELECT

[Clemson University, Clemson, SC](#)
presidentelect@gceaonline.org

Donna Templeton

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP
[California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407](#)
805-756-1108 | secondvp@gceaonline.org

Denise Perryman

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
605-391-7678 | secretary@gceaonline.org

Jerry Waite, TREASURER

[University of Houston, Sugar Land, TX 77479](#)
713-743-4089 | treasurer@gceaonline.org

Charles Weiss

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
[Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634](#)
864-656-3654 | pastpresident@gceaonline.org

Regional Vice Presidents

Adam Burke

REGION 1 NORTH CENTRAL
[Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790](#)
308-438-7708 | aaburke@ilstu.edu

Bill Pope

REGION 2 NORTHEAST
[RIT/School of Print Media, Rochester, NY](#)
603-717-6654

Erica Walker

REGION 3 SOUTHEAST
[Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634](#)
864-656-3654 | EBLACK4@clemson.edu

Rocky Restivo

REGION 4 SOUTH CENTRAL
[Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762](#)
713-743-4089 | JJWaite@Central.UH.EDU

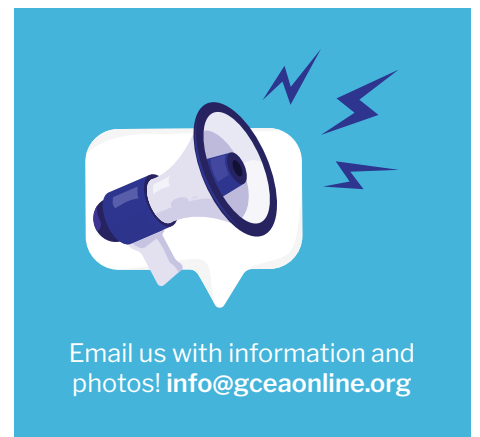
Dina Vees

REGION 5 WEST
[Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407](#)
805-756-1127 | dvees@calpoly.edu

Csaba Horvath

REGION 6 INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES
horvath.csaba@rkk.uni-obuda.hu

Got News?



Email us with information and photos! info@gceaonline.org

**PGSF Scholarships, Grants
& Contests are OPEN**

Check out PGSF.org



GRAPHIC
COMMUNICATIONS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION