

**Stephanie Swindle Thomas, M.A.**  
Penn State Bellisario College of Communications  
Penn State Art History  
The Pennsylvania State University  
119 Carnegie Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
Email: [sns165@psu.edu](mailto:sns165@psu.edu)  
<https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/people/individual/stephanie-thomas>

---

## **Education**

**The Pennsylvania State University**, University Park, PA  
*Master of Arts, Art History, 2010*  
Thesis: *"Paul Gauguin and Spirituality"*

**Rhodes College**, Memphis, TN  
*Bachelor of Arts, Art and Art History, May 2006*  
Undergraduate Research Paper Prize: *"Jackson Pollock and Native American Art"*

---

## **Professional Experience**

### **Penn State Bellisario College of Communications**

*Assistant Teaching Professor of Advertising and Public Relations (2024–present)*

- Teach 400-level Digital Advertising and Public Relations Methods courses
- Supervise Independent Studies and advise Capstone Projects
- Serve on the College's Strategic Plan Committee

### **Penn State Department of Art History**

*Affiliate Faculty (2022–present)*

- Teach Museum Studies certificate courses
- Supervise Independent Studies

### **Penn State Marching Blue Band**

*Multimedia Internship Supervisor (2023–present)*

- Manage a team of 12-15 multimedia interns in content creation
- Oversee book project production by student interns
- Coordinate crowdfunding and recruitment campaigns

- Maintain gameday production schedules in collaboration with Penn State Athletics

## **Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology, Media Commons**

*Multimedia Consultant, Penn State IT (2022–2024)*

- Conduct multimedia workshops across the university
- Consult faculty, students, and staff on technology integration
- Manage Adobe Stock Access for all campuses
- Supervise multimedia student assistants and assist in makerspace projects
- Research and experiment with emerging technology and implementation

## **College of Arts and Architecture, Penn State**

*Marketing Communications Specialist 4 (2018–2022); Public Relations Specialist 3 (2014–2018)*

- Managed college social media and digital presence
- Led advertising, advancement, and recruitment campaigns
- Supervised student interns and ran a multimedia internship program
- Developed crisis management messaging and strategies

## **Additional Roles**

- *Marketing & Communications Specialist*, Stuckeman School of Architecture (2013–14)
- *Multimedia Staff*, Palmer Museum of Art (2012–13)
- *Marketing and Exhibitions Coordinator*, Metal Museum, Memphis, TN (2010–2012)
- *Alumni Relations and Communications Liaison*, Rhodes College (2006–2008)

---

## **Teaching Experience**

- **COMM450**: Digital Advertising
  - **COMM471**: Public Relations Writing
  - **COMM490**: Capstone Projects
  - **COMM495**: Multimedia Internship
  - **COMM496**: Communications Independent Study
  - **ARTH260**: Museum Marketing & Communications
  - **ARTH496**: Art History Independent Study
  - **AA297**: Multimedia Arts Marketing
  - **AA495**: Arts and Architecture Communications Internship
  - **PHOTO401**: Fashion Photography
  - **PHOTO495**: Professional Photography Internship
-

## Research Interests

- Emerging Technology and Advertising
  - Arts Engagement and Philanthropy Messaging
  - Artificial Intelligence, Creativity, and Curriculum
  - Travel and Tourism Campaigns
  - Design Thinking Methodologies and Play
  - Multimedia Content Creation and the Adobe Creative Suite
- 

## Public Presentations & Publications

- *Litzky Lab*, “Quality Writing for Public Relations,” 2025
- *Penn State Bellisario Teaching Tuesday*, “How faculty can use AI to help lighten the load,” panel, 2025
- *Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium Lite*, “AI as TA: Streamlining Course Development and Brainstorming Engagement Activities,” 2025
- *Penn West University*, “Advertising and Fashion Photography,” 2025
- *CommConnect Podcast*, “Stephanie Swindle Thomas: Managing Media and Adapting to AI” 2024
- *Educause Showcase Shop Talk Podcast*, “Meeting Students Where They Are,” o-presented with Ryan Wetzel, 2024
- *Penn State Bellisario Teaching Tuesday*, “Dreamery Pilot Program,” co-presented with Ryan Wetzel, 2024
- *Educause Showcase Shop Talk Podcast*, “Meeting Students Where They Are,” o-presented with Ryan Wetzel, 2024
- *TechPros Pre-Conference Workshop*, “Adobe Lightroom Photo Walk,” co-hosted by Ryan Wetzel, 2024
- *Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium*, “Adobe Lightroom Photo Walk,” co-hosted by Ryan Wetzel, 2024
- *Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium*, AI Arcade Demo, 2024
- *TechPros Conference*, “Making Maker Technologies Magical,” 2023
- *HighEd Web Conference*, Photo Production Presentation/Sizzle Reel for the entire conference in advance of the closing keynote of the conference highlights, 2023
- *Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium*, Virtual Reality Headset Pilot Program, 2023
- *Women in STEM Conference*, “Professional Profiles and Social Media Networking,” 2023
- *Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium*, “Creativity as Curriculum: Design Thinking and the Adobe Creative Suite,” 2022
- *Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium*, “Creating a Multimedia Internship Program,” 2021
- *Social Media Strategies Summit, New York*, “Hybrid Engagement and Community Building through Social Media,” 2021

- *Artist Talk and Portrait Photography Workshop*, in conjunction with Huntingdon Arts Council, Dojo Photography Exhibition, 2020
  - *Field Language: The Painting and Poetry of Warren and Jane Rohrer*, Exhibition Digital Companion, video production, 2020
  - *Social Media Strategies Summit, New York*, panelist, “How to Best Communicate with and Engage Faculty, Staff & Students: Creative Ways to Share Academic & Research Content on Social,” 2019
  - *Visual Resources Association Annual Conference*, “Doing It Your DAM Self: Grassroots Effort, Open Source Software,” 2018
  - *Visual Resources Association Bulletin*, “Designing for Scope, Embracing Drift: Customizing Metadata with Open Source Software and Grassroots Efforts,” Vol. 44, Issue 2, 2018
  - *Expanded Practice: Understanding Space and Place*, panelist, Borland Project Space, Penn State, 2018
  - *Artist Talk and “Storytelling Through Photography” Workshop*, in conjunction with *Give Me Your Portrait* solo exhibition, 2017
  - Weekly multimedia workshops at Penn State, 2017–2021
- 

## Workshops & Skills

- Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Premiere Pro, After Effects, Lightroom)
  - Virtual & Augmented Reality
  - Social Media Marketing & Crisis Management
  - Photography & Videography Workflow
  - AI for Creativity & AI for Educators
  - PR Writing with AI
- 

## Awards & Exhibitions

- **2025:** Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology New Faculty Recognition Award
- **2025–2027:** Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology, Faculty Advisory Committee
- **2025:** Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art Biennale, Bedford Art Museum
- **2025:** AEJMC Best Practices in Teaching Award, Honorable Mention
- **2023–present:** Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology, Dreamery Pilot Program Faculty
- **2024:** Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Bedford Art Museum, Juried Show
- **2021–2022:** Sustainability Teaching Fellow, Penn State College of Arts and Architecture
- **2020:** *Dojo* Group Photography Exhibition, Curator/Artist, Huntingdon Arts Council
- **2020:** Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial
- **2019:** *#BlueBandHype* Exhibition, Curator, Penn State

- **2019:** *Avery Belser, Freshman 15* Exhibition, Curator, Penn State
  - **2018:** Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania Photography Exhibition, Honorable Mention
  - **2017:** *Give Me Your Portrait* Solo Photography Exhibiton, Borland Project Space
  - **2018:** University Staff Achievement Award finalist
  - **2018:** Staff Spotlight Award, College of Arts and Architecture
  - **2017:** *Give Me Your Portrait* Solo Photography Exhibition, Borland Project Space
- 

## Professional Organizations & Service

- **VALLEY Magazine**, Faculty Advisor, 2025
  - **AEJMC**, Member, 2025
  - **Bellisario College of Communications**, Strategic Plan Committee, 2025
  - **TLT Symposium Selection Committee**, 2024–2025
  - **TLT Open Innovation Challenge Committee**, 2023–2024
  - **Penn State IT Mentorship Program**, Mentor (2025–2026); Mentee (2022–2023)
  - **HighEd Web**, Photography Chair, 2022
  - **Fast Start First-Generation Student Mentorship Program**, Mentor 2019–2025
  - **Virtual Reality Headset Pilot Program Faculty**, Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology 2021–2023
  - **Center for Pedagogy in the Arts and Design**, Advisory Board Member, 2020–2024
  - **Digitally Engaged Learning Conference**, Social Media Manager, 2019–21
- 

## Advising for Internship and Career Placement

- **Graduate and Professional School Acceptances:**
  - Acceptance into Trinity University, Dublin, M.A. program
  - Acceptance and M.S., Digital Social Media, USC
  - Acceptance and graduation from University of Florida’s graduate program in social media management
  - Acceptance into Tyler School of Art, MFA in Photography
  - Acceptance into the University of Denver, International Media Studies Master’s Program
  - Teach for America placement and fully funded M.S. in Education, SMU; Ph.D. in Education, Harvard
- **Corporate and Agency Placements:**
  - Paramount, International PR Internship
  - Jack Morton Worldwide, New Business Intern
  - Marathon Digital, Social Media and Marketing Internships (5)
  - Primary Wave, Digital Marketing Specialist & Audience Development
  - Inkhouse, Account Executive
  - OpenTable, Marketing Specialist

- McCann, Account Executive
- DDB Chicago, Assistant Account Executive
- Chevron, Cybersecurity Engineer, IT Cloud Team, Intern
- YAMI, Marketing Specialist
- Deloitte Consulting, Business Analyst
- Deloitte Solutions & Insights, Client Management Consultant
- Canon Cameras (2019 summer intern, Corporate Communications Division; first analytics intern, 1/18 selected from an applicant pool of over 14,000, as well as a second intern who was a finalist)
- Stone Talent Agency, Theatrical/Commercial Intern
- Hudson's Bay Company, Digital Operations Intern
- ArtsQuest, Social Media and Digital Marketing Intern
- DLA Piper, a global law firm based in NYC (Marketing Intern)
- PNC Young Professional Career Development Program
- Under Armour Endorsement, Brand Representative
- **Higher Education and Research Positions:**
  - Princeton University, Communications Project Specialist
  - Penn State College of Law, Full-Time Marketing and Communications Specialist
  - Penn State Educational Outreach, Full-Time Marketing and Communications Specialist
  - Marketing and Communications Specialist, Penn State Global
  - Penn State College of Arts and Architecture, Multimedia Internship Coordinator and Digital Asset Manager
  - Full-Time Teaching Faculty, Penn West University, Media Arts, Digital Film and Photography
  - Penn State Pollinator Research Center grant recipient for a photography project
  - SIGGRAPH Conference Student Volunteer, Tokyo
  - SIGGRAPH Conference Student Volunteer, Denver
  - Stuckeman School Multimedia Internships (6)
  - Penn State Libraries Intern (Research Video Production)
  - Prevention Research Center in the College of Health and Human Development, Communications Interns (4)
  - Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology, Media Commons, Multimedia Consultant
  - Penn State Blue Band, Multimedia Internship Coordinator (3)
- **Media and Creative Placements:**
  - Ignition Creative, Reception and Assets Specialist
  - Penn State Hollywood Program (4)
  - *Valley* Magazine, Editor, Penn State
  - C&D Brewing, Graphic Designer and Photographer
  - Professional Photography LLCs (5)
  - Freelance Photography (Advancement Office, History Department, and many special events)
  - *Pump* Magazine, Cover Photo, Spring 2022
  - *We Are* Magazine, Cover Photo, Spring 2022
- **Community and Nonprofit Placements:**

- The Pingry School, Communications and Marketing Coordinator
- State College Area Land Trust, Site Photographer
- Milesburg Museum and Historical Society, Documentary Production Team and Social Media Manager (4)
- State College Area School District (Photograph chosen and given as the Senior Class Gift to the Board of Education)
- Art Alliance of Centre County, Best in Show, "Art at the End of a Lens"
- **Programs, Fellowships, and Grants:**
  - CommAgency Internships (16)
  - Spark Program Fellow at Penn State (2)
  - Student Engagement Remote Innovation Grant, Spring 2021
  - Fulbright UK Summer Program, Finalist