

- Jackie Grondahl: How do you define art, you know?
- Nikki Edrington: Jackie Grondahl is a junior visual communications design major from Indianapolis, Indiana. She is passionate about photography, and for her, that passion began much like anyone else's.
- Jackie: Landscape photos of nature, or I don't know, just macro photography of flowers, like your typical like ... I feel like everyone starts off doing that, but then I moved more towards portraits and people. And for me it's all about capturing a specific moment.
- Nikki: Even deeper than just capturing a moment, Jackie's greatest passion lies in using her photographs to tell the stories of her subjects.
- Jackie: In my photographs, I think story is a huge emphasis, especially when it comes to traveling and going to different cultures that I'm unfamiliar with. Just meeting different people. I try to combine always a photo with words. And so it's more than just a picture, it's like, "Here's a picture of Wilma, and this is her story." Yes, the picture is pretty, and it matters, but the story behind the picture matters more.
- Nikki: Most recently, while on a mission trip, Jackie met a woman whose story has impacted countless lives, including Jackie's.
- Jackie: I went to Peru over winter break, in 2016. I met this wonderful woman, named Wilma, and she legitimately built this school for kids. It's three stories tall, concrete. She carved out a place with just a pick-ax, because this was the only plot of land the government was able to give her. And they were like just like, "Yep, good luck." And it was literally just like a landfill. Just hearing her story, and hearing her testimony too, that was so powerful and impactful. I just think stories like that just need to be shared.
- Nikki: Andy, the leader of the mission trip asked Jackie if she would be willing to use her talent as a visual storyteller to share the status of Wilma's school with the churches who support its mission.
- Jackie: Andy was like, "Well, we want to update them on what's going on in the school, and the lives of the kids." So, I just sat down with Wilma for an hour or so, and she just rattled off three to four stories about kids that had come to the school and had their life totally turned around. It was just incredible, incredible stories of God's faithfulness with providing this school for Wilma. Having a chance for these kids to come be educated.
- Nikki: This summer, Jackie will be interning with Josiah Venture, an organization dedicated to discipleship, and spreading the gospel in Central and Eastern Europe. As part of their communications team, Jackie will continue to tell stories through her photos.
- Jackie: I'll be traveling to the Czech Republic for two weeks for training, and then from there, I think we're planning out our projects and our schedule in the Czech Republic. I'll be sent to one plus different countries that they offer the camps in, and then just going there and

sharing the gospel through photo and video. I just have to keep in mind, yes, this is an internship for a hands-on experience in photography, but also, this summer ultimately is not about me. And if I make it about me, then I feel I'm going to miss out completely and totally on what God has to offer.

Nikki: In closing, Jackie shares her ultimate story. The one that she hopes her art and photos most clearly display.

Jackie: If I were to tell a story, I would want people to know that they're allowed to feel. I just want people to become aware that they're alive, embrace that in whatever way that they embrace it. Whether it's through their passions, whether it's through relationships, whether it's through whatever, but, yeah, I hate apathy, and I want to get rid of it forever.

Nikki: This is Nikki Edrington, reporting for the Andersonian.