Studying Communication at Maryland

The Department of Communication takes as its intellectual focus the strategic use of discourse in the public sphere.

Departmental research focuses on a wide array of topics within the Communication arts and sciences, with a programmatic focus on three broad areas: Communication Science; Public Relations; and Rhetoric & Political Culture.

Our Ph.D. Program
The Department encourages applications for graduate study from students wishing to pursue interests identified with one or more of these foci. The graduate program in Communication is designed for students whose educational objective is the Ph.D. degree (the program does not admit students whose degree objective is the M.A.).

The Ph.D. degree is research-oriented rather than applied. The graduate curriculum treats disciplinary methods of inquiry, communication concepts and theories, and specialized research problems, and all graduate students engage in independent research projects, including the Ph.D. dissertation. Currently, nearly all of the students admitted into the Ph.D. program aspire to academic careers as scholars and teachers, with a few pursuing professional careers in government, non-profit organizations, or the private sector.

Studying COMM in DC
Communication faculty and graduate students at Maryland enjoy unique research opportunities.

The Washington D.C. metropolitan area provides rich resources including Congress, the Supreme Court, the White House, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian, the national monuments, Embassies, media outlets, and the headquarters of major foundations and public granting agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation.

With rare exceptions, the program currently admits only full-time students who are funded by teaching assistantships, administrative assistantships, and/or university fellowships.

New Research from Maryland
The latest research publications from Maryland faculty members and graduate students, appearing in the leading journals in the communication discipline.

Terps @ NCA, Las Vegas
Faculty and graduate student will present research and receive awards at the 101st annual meeting of the National Communication Association in November.
New Research from Maryland

Associate Professor Dale Hample, “Orientations to Interpersonal Arguing in the United Arab Emirates, with Comparisons to the United States, China, and India,” *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*.


Ph.D. student Irina Iles, Assistant Professor Anita Atwell Seate, and Professional Track Faculty member Leah Waks, “Stigmatizing the Other: An Exploratory Study of Unintended Consequences of Eating Disorder Public Service Announcements,” *Journal of Health Psychology*.

Associate Professor Xiaoli Nan (with Ph.D. alumna Jarim Kim), “Consideration of Future Consequences and HPV Vaccine Uptake Among Young Adult,” *Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives*.


Assistant Professor Anita Atwell Seate, “Media’s influence on immigration attitudes: An intergroup threat theory approach,” *Communication Monographs*.


UM #8—Best Publics

According to a ranking by The Business Journals, the University of Maryland is the eighth best public university in America. Only the University of Michigan is ranked higher than Maryland among Big Ten universities.

Terps @ NCA, 2015

Academic Entitlement on Conflict Management: Implications of a Consumer Culture for the Student-Teacher Relationship” and “Social Media Crisis Communication in China: Case Study of McDonald’s and KFC Crises Management.”

Assistant Professor Lindsey Anderson, “Embracing Training Opportunities to Strengthen the Basic Course: What Happens at Training, Shouldn’t Stay at Training (panelist),” and “Embracing the Opportunities of a Graying Workforce: Identifying the Age-Based Communicative Strategies for Coping with Emotional Labor,” and “Incorporating Learning Analytics into Basic Course Administration: How to Embrace the Opportunity to Identify Inconsistencies and Inform Responses,” and “Embracing Opportunities to Adapt the Basic Course for STEM Majors.”

Ph.D. student Hagar Attia, “Rethinking Egyptian National Identity: The Rhetorical Construction of Tahrir Square.”


Ph.D. student Kathleen Brown, “Feeling Myself”: Mediated Self-Expression of Gendered Identities through the Selfie.”

Ph.D. student Jaclyn Bruner, “Lowndes, Bloody, Lowndes (Then and Now): Remembering Civil Rights Worker Jonathan Myrick Daniels.”


Ph.D. student Brooke Fowler, “Too big to fail? The role of communication in healthcare system and community resilience.”

Ph.D. student Elizabeth Gardner, “Incorporating Learning Analytics into Basic Course Administration: How to Embrace the Opportunity to Identify Inconsistencies and Inform Responses.”

Professional Track Faculty member Taylor Hahn, “The New Normalcy of Drought: Exploring Arguments on California’s Impending Water Crisis.”

Attending the 101st Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 2015:

Ph.D. student Rebecca Alt, “Contemporary Sports, Image Events, and Social Change: Penn State’s ‘Blue-Out to End Child Abuse.’”

Professional Track Faculty Deepa Anagondahalli, “Effects of
Associate Professor Dale Hample, "Consequential Unscripted Interactions: A Conceptual and Empirical Description," and "Cognitive Editing in Different Stages of Romantic Relationships," and "Personalizing Conflict in Different Interpersonal Relationship Types."

Ph.D. student William Howell, "Advocacy and Normalcy: The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage in Scandal."

Ph.D. student Irina Iles, "As Much Calcium as a Glass of Milk!" Understanding American Consumers’ Preferences for Fortified Foods."

Ph.D. student Amanda Irions, "Love attitudes, demandingness, and relational satisfaction."

Assistant Professor Nick Joyce, "Intergroup contact in combination: Mediated and face-to-face intercultural communication as independent and interfering prejudice reduction strategies."

Research Professor Kathleen Kendall, "The Obama Presidency and Republican Opposition Watch in Year Seven: The Rhetoric and Politics of Legacy and Groundwork for Election 2016" (panelist).

Ph.D. student Amanda Kennedy, "Boundary Work: Mapping the Critical in Public Relations Theory."

Associate Professor Sahar Khamis, "Identity (Re)Construction and Co-cultural Communication of Second-Generation Asian America Female Immigrants."

Professional Track Faculty member Rowena Kirby-Straker, "Incorporating Learning Analytics into Basic Course Administration: How to Embrace the Opportunity to Identify Inconsistencies and Inform Responses."

Associate Professor Brooke Fisher Liu, "Too big to fail? The role of communication in healthcare system and community resilience."

Ph.D. student Jessica Lu, "Contracted for Citizenship: A Paradox of Post-Bellum Progress in ‘Plain Counsels for Freedmen,’ and ‘I Will Indeed Be Your Moses’: Andrew Johnson and the Deliverance of Freedom in Reconstruction America."

Ph.D. student Melissa Lucas, "The Rhetoric of the Farmerette: Negotiating Women’s Citizenship during the Great War."

Ph.D. student Sean Luechtefeld, "Coxey’s Army: Collecting Signatures for a Petition in Boots," and "Is Adnan Syed Guilty? Embracing Opportunities for Public Deliberation and Debate through ‘Serial’ (panelist)."

Ph.D. student Rong Ma, "Uncertainty and Information Management of Women with Breast Cancer: A Content Analysis of BreastCancer.org Forum."

Ph.D. student Stephanie Madden, "Embracing the Opportunity to Lean In, Through, and Around: How to Negotiate Obstacles and Blaze Alternative Paths to Tenure and Job Satisfaction" (panelist), and "’The Clock is Ticking’: Temporality and Dual Convergence Processes in Emergency Communication," and "Protest and Activism on Campus: Opportunities for University Administration to Engage with On-Campus Demonstrators" (panelist), and "’You Get Out What You Put Into It’: The Influence of Titled Volunteer Expectations and Inclusion on Retention in a Volunteer-Run Nonprofit Organization."


Associate Professor Xiaoli Nan, "Risk Perception and Fatalistic Belief as Predictors of Information Seeking and Sharing Related to a Food Recall," and "’As Much Calcium as a Glass of Milk!’ Understanding American Consumers’ Preferences for Fortified Foods.”

Ph.D. student Annie-Laurie Nichols, "’Embracing’ Kenneth Burke as Pedagogical Equipment for Living: Burkean Pedagogy in the Next Century of NCA” (panelist).

Ph.D. student Jade Olson, “Bare Life in Puerto Montt: Rhetorics of Sovereignty and Ecology in the Cascada Chile Debate,” and “Is Adnan Syed Guilty? Embracing Opportunities for Public Deliberation and Debate through ‘Serial’” (panelist), and “Unlikely Allies? Framing the Cowboy and Indian Alliance’s Anti-Keystone Protest.”
Professor Shawn J. Parry-Giles, “LGBT Rights Are Human Rights: Critical Commentary Concerning Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s 2011 Speech to the United Nations” (panelist), and “The Rhetoric and Politics of the Letter” (panelist).

Professor Trevor Parry-Giles, “Making an Impact: An NCA Primer on How to Get Published...and Read” (panelist).


Assistant Professor Anita Atwell Seate, “Intergroup contact in combination: Mediated and face-to-face intercultural communication as independent and interfering prejudice reduction strategies,” and “When Talking Differences Makes Us Closer: The Role of the Communicative Dynamics of Group Salience in Intergroup Contact,” and “From Isolation to Celebration: Social Identity in a Chinese Pro-Bulimia Online Community.”


Ph.D. student Janna Soeder, “From Poverty Porn to Political Activism: Aaron Huey’s Images of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation,” and “Unlikely Allies? Framing the Cowboy and Indian Alliance’s Anti-Keystone Protest.”

Assistant Professor Erich Sommerfeldt, “Embracing Political Opportunity in Issues Management: Exploring the Impact of Opportunity Structures on Strategic Network Building.”

Professional Track Faculty member Christopher Swift, “Friedrich Nietzsche and the Invention of Literature.”

Professor Andrew Wolvin, “Incorporating Learning Analytics into Basic Course Administration: How to Embrace the Opportunity to Identify Inconsistencies and Inform Responses.”


Professor Andrew Wolvin, “Incorporating Learning Analytics into Basic Course Administration: How to Embrace the Opportunity to Identify Inconsistencies and Inform Responses.”

Ph.D. student Ning Xie, “It Depends’ on Power: A Case Study of China’s Confucius Institute as Public Relations Function Abroad.”

Ph.D. student Sifan Xu, “Empowering Them is Empowering Us: Activist Public Relations from a Non-System Perspective,” and “A Voice Unheard: Community Building of International Students in Crises.”

Assistant Professor Michelle Murray Yang, “Embracing the Opportunity to Lean In, Through, and Around: How to Negotiate Obstacles and Blaze Alternative Paths to Tenure and Job Satisfaction” (panelist), and “Limits of Synechodochial Representations in Transnational Communication: Chen Guangcheng, Human Rights, and U.S.-Sino Relations.”

Ph.D. student Mengqi Zhan, Consequential Unscripted Interactions: A Conceptual and Empirical Description.”

Ph.D. student Xinyan Zhao, “Risk Perception and Fatalistic Belief as Predictors of Information Seeking and Sharing Related to a Food Recall.”
Terp Top Papers

Top Paper, Basic Course Division—

Lindsey Anderson, Elizabeth Gardner, Andrew Wolvin, Rowena Kirby-Straker, Adil Yalcin, and Ben Bederson for “Incorporating Learning Analytics into Basic Course Administration: How to Embrace the Opportunity to Identify Inconsistencies and Inform Responses.”

James L. Golden Award Laureate—

William Howell for “Advocacy and Normalcy: The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage in Scandal.”

Top Student Papers, Public Relations Division—

Amanda Kennedy for “Boundary Work: Mapping the “Critical” in Public Relations Theory.”

Sifan Xu for “Empowering Them is Empowering Us: Activist Public Relations from a Non-System Perspective.”

Top Student Papers, Theatre, Film, and New Multi-Media Division—


Devin Scott for “Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons: An Invitation to Identification.”

Top Papers, Public Address Division—

Michael J. Steudeman for “Charles Sumner's Educational Imaginary: Reconfiguring Temporality in the Common School Idiom.”

Top Student Papers, Political Communication Division—

Michael J. Steudeman for “‘Two Parent Seeds, Education and Ignorance’: Reconstructing Social Hierarchy in the Congressional Department of Education Debate, 1866-1868.”

Top Student Papers, Peace and Conflict Division—


Top Papers, Association for Chinese Communication Studies—

Ning Xie for “‘It Depends’ on Power: A Case Study of China’s Confucius Institute as Public Relations Function Abroad.”
Assistant Professor Nick Joyce is the 2015 recipient of the NCA Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, for his dissertation completed at University of Arizona entitled “Intergroup Media Selection: Media Features and Audience’s Social Identity Motivations and Gratifications.” Dr. Joyce’s doctoral advisor was Jake Harwood.

Professor Shawn J. Parry-Giles is the 2015 recipient of the Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award, given by NCA’s Public Address Division for outstanding scholarship in rhetoric and public address. Parry-Giles receives the award for her book Hillary Clinton in the News: Gender and Authenticity in American Politics (University of Illinois Press, 2014).

Ph.D. student Michael Steudeman is the 2015 recipient of the Benson-Campbell Dissertation Research Award, given by NCA’s Public Address Division to support outstanding dissertation research in rhetoric and public address. Steudeman receives the award for his dissertation project entitled “The Educational Imaginary in Radical Reconstruction: Congressional Public Policy Rhetoric and American Federalism, 1864-1874.”

Don’t Miss the Maryland Party @ NCA, 2015

Friday, November 20, 7:00- 9:00 pm, Miranda 4, Rio Hotel Conference Center
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

- Located in the Washington DC/Baltimore metroplex
- Ready access to the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the National Institutes of Health
- Close to numerous federal granting agencies – NEA, NEH, NIH, NSF
- A graduate program designed for students whose educational objective is the Ph.D. degree
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- Top 10 ranked programs in International-Intercultural Communication, Political Communication, Public Relations, and Rhetoric
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- Award-winning graduate students & alumni – IPR Ketchum Award, NCA Golden Prize in Rhetoric, NCA Miller Outstanding Dissertation Award

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

FELLOWSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE

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www.comm.umd.edu