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.

Terps Will Present Research at Regional COMM Conferences
UM faculty members and graduate students will present research and participate in meetings at all four of the regional Communication conferences in the Spring of 2016.

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Spring Conferences—Terps Go to WSCA, ECA, SSCA, and CSCA

**Western States Communication Association, San Diego, February 25-March 2, 2016**


Ph.D. student **Thomas McCloskey**, “‘Look at Me, Stop Crying, Look at Me!’: The Bachelor and the Basic Course”; “Smashing Silos and Recovering Voices: Rebuilding Forensic Communities” (Top Papers; Forensics & Argumentation); and “It Shall Never Be the Home of Civilized Man’: American Identity and ‘Seward’s Folly.’”


**Eastern Communication Association, Baltimore, March 31-April 3, 2016**

Ph.D. student **Rebecca Alt**, “Sorrow, Anger and ‘Swift, Decisive Action’: Penn State’s Rhetorical Response to the Sandusky Scandal”

Assistant professor **Lindsey Anderson**, “Making a Persuasive Case: Justifying a Reduction in Class Size in the Introductory Oral Communication Course”; and “Beyond Middle States: Imagining a Productive End for Outcomes Assessment Data”

Ph.D. student **Hagar Attia**, “Appropriating the ‘Revolution’: An Analysis of Egyptian Army Rhetoric Versus Social Media Activist Rhetoric”

Ph.D. student **Katie Brown**, “‘Toxic’ Feminism: Containment Rhetorics and the Domestication of the Online Feminist Sphere”

Ph.D. student **Hsin-Yi Chien**, “Everyone is Looking for Our Conflicts! A Dialectical Approach to Intercultural Romantic Relationships”; and “A Re-examination of Communication Accommodation Theory: Integrating CAT with Lewin’s Field Theory”

Ph.D. student **Yiwen Dai**, “Theorizing the Role of Commitment in Reactance to Persuasion: An Investment Model Perspective”; and “Individual- and Dyad-level Predictors of Emotions in Face-to-Face Arguing”

Professional Track Faculty **Elizabeth Gardner**, “Making a Persuasive Case: Justifying a Reduction in Class Size in the Introductory Oral Communication Course”; and “Beyond Middle States: Imagining a Productive End for Outcomes Assessment Data”

Ph.D. student **Sylvia Guo**, “Fulfilling the Role of Coping Facilitator: Practitioners’ Emotional Intelligence n Crises Communication”

Professional Track Faculty **Taylor Hahn**, participant, “Discourses of the 2016 Presidential Election: A Public Debate”

Ph.D. student **Amanda Irions**, “Individual- and Dyad-level Predictors of Emotions in Face-to-Face Arguing”; and “Goals and Some Controversies” (Top Papers; Theory and Methodology)

Assistant professor **Nick Joyce**, “She’s Not Feminine Enough to Be My Friend: The Effects of (Non)Prototypicality and Gender Salience on the Friendship Potential of a Female Interlocutor”

Research professor **Kathleen Kendall**, “Governor John Kasich’s Insider Image: Fighting against the Odds in the 2016 Republican Primaries”

Associate professor **Sahar Khamis**, “The Potentials and Limitations of Cyberactivism in Revolutions: Lessons from the Arab Spring”

Professional Track Faculty **Rowie Kirby-Straker**, “Making a Persuasive Case: Justifying a Reduction in Class Size in the Introductory Oral Communication Course”

Professor emeritus **James Klumpp**, “The Demise of Slavery: A Burkean Reading”

Associate professor **Brooke Fisher Liu**, “Communicating Crisis Uncertainty: A Review of the Knowledge Gaps”

Ph.D. student **Liang Ma**, “Managing Uncertainty Strategically: Toward an Intergroup Crisis Theory”
Ph.D. student **Rong Ma**, “She’s Not Feminine Enough to Be My Friend: The Effects of (Non)Prototypicality and Gender Salience on the Friendship Potential of a Female Interlocutor”; and “Person-Situation Interactions: Mapping Interpersonal Communication Research”

Ph.D. student **Stephanie Madden**, “MarsOne07: Launching a Video Interview Assignment in the Basic Course”

Associate professor **Kristy Maddux**, “Organized Womanhood as Citizenship at the World’s Columbian Exposition” *(Top Papers; Rhetoric & Public Address)*

Ph.D. student **Thomas McCloskey**, “‘He Got Game’: The Anti-Purity Myth of College Basketball”; and participant, “Guilty or Innocent? Embracing Opportunities for Public Deliberation and Debate through ‘Serial’

Ph.D. student **Nora Murphy**, “A Quaker Minister, Lucretia Coffin Mott: Public Voice and Advocate for Peace”

Ph.D. student **Annie-Laurie Nichols**, “Creating Hate: Essential Motive in *Ex Machina”*


Ph.D. student **Tyler Page**, “Revolting against Commercialization: Testing Social Intrusion Theory through Eye Tracking on Facebook”

Professor **Trevor Parry-Giles**, participant, "Tribute to Robert E. Denton”

Ph.D. student **Timothy Penn**, “Public Relations, Sociology, Globalization, and the British Abolition Movement”

Ph.D. student **Devin Scott**, “Making a Persuasive Case: Justifying a Reduction in Class Size in the Introductory Oral Communication Course”

Assistant professor **Anita Atwell Seate**, “But Are We Getting Good Data? Discussing the Growing Body of Empirical Research Regarding MTurk Data Quality”; and “She’s Not Feminine Enough to Be My Friend: The Effects of (Non)Prototypicality and Gender Salience on the Friendship Potential of a Female Interlocutor”

Ph.D. student **Erich Sommerfeldt**, “A Societal Turn for Organizations: Unpacking Societal Dimensions of Public Relations Strategy”

Professor **Andrew Wolvin**, “Making a Persuasive Case: Justifying a Reduction in Class Size in the Introductory Oral Communication Course”; and “Beyond Middle States: Imagining a Productive End for Outcomes Assessment Data”

Ph.D. student **Sifan Xu**, “A Societal Turn for Organizations: Unpacking Societal Dimensions of Public Relations Strategy”

Ph.D. student **Mengqi Zhan**, “Cultural Diversity in Project Teams: Unpacking How and When Cultural Diversity Affects Collective Performance”; and “Managing Uncertainty Strategically: Toward an Intergroup Crisis Theory”

**Southern States Communication Association, Austin, April 6-10, 2016**

Ph.D. student **Thomas McCloskey**, “This Firm Conviction is Based on Truth and Justice!": Putin and Russian Exceptionalism

**Central States Communication Association, Grand Rapids, MI, April 13-17, 2016**

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
- Research specialties include: Communication Science, Public Relations, and Rhetoric & Political Culture
- Top 10 ranked programs in International-Intercultural Communication, Political Communication, Public Relations, and Rhetoric
- Home to UM's Center for Political Communication & Civic Leadership and Center for Health & Risk Communication
- Award-winning faculty – AEJMC Leadership Award, NCA Diamond Anniversary Book Award, PRSA Diversity Champion Award
- 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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