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 and Social Cognition, Public Relations and Strategic Communication, and Rhetoric and 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 some 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, 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. The department works with students that we admit to provide these funding opportunities to support their work.
University of Maryland faculty members and graduate students presenting research at NCA’s 103rd Annual Convention include the following:

- **Rebecca Alt**
  “Intercollegiate Sport and the NCAA’s Axiological Rhetoric of Amateurism”
  “The Toulmin Shuffle: Argumentation Theory and Practice”
  “Redesigning the Basic Communication Course: A Case Study”

- **Lindsey B. Anderson**
  “Millennials to Boomers: Understanding and Improving Intergenerational Communication in the Workplace”
  “Exploring Retirement as a Communicative Process: A Research Agenda for Communication Scholars (Top Papers, Communication & Aging Division)”
  “Enhancing the Relevance of NCA Basic Course Resources to Secure Our Legacy”
  “When anger becomes helpful: An exploration of emotional dissent and its receptivity”
  “‘We don’t hire bitches’: A Standpoint Theory Analysis of Nurses’ Experience of Incivility and Gender”
  “Redesigning the Basic Communication Course: A Case Study”

- **Lauren Bender**
  “President Barack Obama’s Sandy Hook Eulogy: A Call for Policy Change from the Nation’s Presidential Father”

- **Katie Brown**
  “Participatory Media and the Intersectional Online Feminist Sphere: Reading Beyoncé’s 2013 Visual Album as a Feminist Image Event”
  “Societal Public Relations: Articulating a Public Relations Paradigm”

- **Jaclyn Bruner**
  “Post-heroic Rhetoric: Public Memory and Iconic Transfer”

- **Luke Capizzo**
  “Reimagining Dialogue in Public Relations: Bakhtin and open dialogue in the public sphere (Top Student Papers in Public Relations)”

- **Hsin-Yi Chien**
  “Questioning My Love is Questioning My Face: An Analysis of Facework Strategies by Interracial and Interethnic Couples in Taiwan”

- **Sreashi Das**
  “Theorizing About Long-Term Romantic Relationship Schema Cross-Culturally to Understand Interpersonal Communication in Long-Term Romantic Relationships”

- **Alyson Farzad-Phillips**
  “The Personal is Parochial: The Limits of Consciousness-Raising in Pantsuit Nation”

- **Megan Fitzmaurice**
  “The Defenders of Freedom Justice and Equality: Protesting the Lost Cause and Recognizing Slavery’s Violent Legacy”

- **Randall Fowler**
  “Eisenhower, Operation Ajax, and Iran: An Analysis of Cold War Rhetoric of Misdirection”

- **Sylvia Guo**
  “When anger becomes helpful: An exploration of emotional dissent and its receptivity”

- **Dale Hample**
  “Appraisal Models of Intercultural Communication Apprehension Among Sojourners: A Multiple-Sample Analysis”
Kimberly Hannah-Prater
“Resisting Trump’s Cheerleaders: Female Comic Impersonations on Saturday Night Live”

Morgan Hess
“The Personal is Parochial: The Limits of Consciousness-Raising in Pantsuit Nation”

Lauren Hunter
“The Consumer Sodbuster: Rethinking Kennedy’s Consumer Rights Legacy”
“‘Right Makes Might:’ Constitutionalism at Cooper Union”
“Humanism and the Home-Cooked Meal: Reified Inequities in Michael Pollan’s Cooked”

Irina Iles
“The impact of disgust-versus sadness-focused messages on perceptions of risk severity and susceptibility, and behavioral intentions: An appraisal theory approach”
“The effect of formatting elements on message recall, risk perceptions, and behavioral intentions in safety information about drugs”

Nick Joyce
“The impact of disgust-versus sadness-focused messages on perceptions of risk severity and susceptibility, and behavioral intentions: An appraisal theory approach”
Kathy Kendall
“The Trump Watch: Rhetorical Personality and the President”
“Lessons Learned from the 2016 Presidential Campaign: Authors of the American Behavioral Scientist Campaign Editions”
“The First Nine Months of the Trump Administration”

Sahar Khamis
“Islamophobia Cyberwars in the Trump Era: The Online Responses to Ongoing Affairs”

Victoria Ledford
“Creating an Inclusive Basic Communication Course: The Relevance of Peers’ Knowledge, Stigma, and Attitudes Toward Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (Top Papers, Basic Course Division)”
“The National Speech Championship: Reflecting on an Experimental National Tournament and Moving Forward”
“‘Do We Have to Speak Like That?:’ Potentials and Pitfalls of Forensics in the Basic Course”

Naette Lee
“Revolutionary Burke”
“Metaphorically Human: Exploring the Representations of ASD in a Mediated Landscape”

Jung Kyu (Rhys) Lim
“How Public Relations Contributes to Integrated Communication in Matrix Organization in Non-English Speaking Country”

Jessica Lu

Rong Ma
“Appraisal Models of Intercultural Communication Apprehension Among Sojourners: A Multiple-Sample Analysis”

Kristy Maddux
“The Personal is Parochial: The Limits of Consciousness-Raising in Pantsuit Nation”

Thomas McCloskey
“Limit work and the rise of Ukraine's ‘Right Sector’ nationalist movement”
“‘We all knew this in our hearts and minds:’ Russian nationalism in the Ukrainian crisis”
“Redesigning the Basic Communication Course: A Case Study”
“‘Planting our feet in Ukraine, keeping our heads in Europe!:’ Defining Ukrainian Nationalism”

Nora Murphy
“The Personal is Parochial: The Limits of Consciousness-Raising in Pantsuit Nation”

Xiaoli Nan
“The impact of disgust- versus sadness-focused messages on perceptions of risk severity and susceptibility, and behavioral intentions: An appraisal theory approach”
“Cancer/Health Communication and Breast, Cervical, and Prostate Cancer Screening Among Asian Americans”
“Cancer Communication: A Spotlight Session on NCI Funding Opportunities and Grant-Seeking Strategies”

Annie Laurie Nichols
“Revolutionary Burke”
“Relational Cluster Analysis”
“Believing and Sharing Conspiracy Theories Is a Relational Phenomenon”
Shawn J. Parry-Giles
“The Mass Migration of Exodusters in the Aftermath of Reconstruction: The Partisan Dispute over the ‘Removal’ and ‘Relocation’ of Freed Blacks, 1878–1879”

Trevor Parry-Giles
“A New Paranoid Style for a New Age: The Rhetorical Lives of The Manchurian Candidate from the Cold War to Campaign 2016”
“How to Get Published ... and Read”

Damien Smith Pfister
“Rhetorical Theory and Digital Culture: Key Questions and Future Directions”
“Legacies of What Keeps, Binds, and Bounds Us: Distinctive Qualities in Communication”

Devin Scott
“Redesigning the Basic Communication Course: A Case Study”
“Using the ‘Listenable Speech Peer Evaluation Form’ to Improve Speech Listenability”

Anita Atwell Seate
“Introducing Global Citizenship and Cultural Competency: Enhancing the Legacy and Relevance of the Basic Course”

Artesha Taylor Sharma
“The Black Body and Political Photography”

Yvonne Slosarski
“Economic Justice for All: The U.S. Catholic Bishops’ Antagonistic Axiology”
“Ask an Activist”
Nathaniel Stoltz
“Domain-Specific Descriptive Norms: Toward an Integrated Perspective of Argumentative Substance (Top Student Papers, Argumentation & Forensics Division)”
“The Playful Divide: A New Look at Arguing for Fun (Top Student Papers, Argumentation & Forensics Division)”

Meredith Styer
“Susan B. Anthony’s Extemporaneous Speaking as a Constitutive Performance of National Citizenship and a Catalyst for Gendered Exclusion”

Ning Xie
“Predicting Student Grade Negotiation: Curbing Student Consumerism and Academic Entitlement”

Sifan Xu
“Questioning My Love is Questioning My Face: An Analysis of Facework Strategies by Interracial and Interethnic Couples in Taiwan”

Michelle Murray Yang
“Taking Stock of Our Legacy, Our Relevance: Communication Studies In, About, and Between China and the U.S.”
“Dueling Legacies in U.S.-Sino Relations: The Cyber Controversy in U.S. Political and Media Discourse”

Mengqi Zhan
“When anger becomes helpful: An exploration of emotional dissent and its receptivity”
“Toward a Social-mediated Crisis Theory (SCARE): Modeling Topics from Big Data for Chipotle E. coli Crisis”

NCA Awards
Lisa Corrigan (Ph.D., 2006)
Diamond Anniversary Book Award

Yvonne Slosarski
Stephen E. Lucas Debut Publication Award

Michael Steudeman (Ph.D., 2016)
Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award