Studying COMM at Maryland

The Department of Communication takes as its intellectual focus the strategic use of discourse in the public sphere. Departmental research focuses on feminist studies; health communication; intercultural communication; media studies; persuasion and social influence; public relations; and rhetoric and political culture.

Our Graduate 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 (beginning with admissions for the 2011-12 academic year 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 also 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 exemptions, 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.

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

Maryland@NCA 2012
UM faculty members, graduate students, and alumni are presenting research, participating in business meetings, and receiving awards at the 2012 NCA Convention.


Stillion Southard Wins Nichols Award
Belinda Stillion Southard (Ph.D., 2008) has received the prestigious Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award from the NCA Public Address Division. She receives the award for her book Militant Citizenship: Rhetorical Strategies of the National Woman’s Party, 1913-1920 (Texas A&M University Press). Dr. Stillion Southard teaches in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Georgia.

Barney Wins Dissertation Awards
Timothy Barney (Ph.D., 2012) will receive two dissertation awards at the NCA Convention in Orlando. His dissertation, entitled (Re)Placing America: Cold War Mapping and the Mediation of International Space, has been awarded the Lynda Lee Kaid Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Political Communication Division and the American Society for the History of Rhetoric’s Outstanding Dissertation Award. Dr. Barney teaches in the Department of Rhetoric & Communication Studies at the University of Richmond.

FAST FACTS
80%
Since 2004, 80% of UM Department of Communication Ph.D. recipients have secured tenure-track positions at the college/university level.

Maryland@NCA, 2012
University of Maryland faculty members and graduate students are presenting research at the NCA 98th Annual Convention include:

Deepa Anagondahilli, “The Joint Effects of Blaming and Engaging in Image Repair in Predicting Post-Crisis Organizational Ripple Effects.”

Steven D. Cohen:
• “The Digital Communication Journal: Building an Online COMMunity for Student Dialogue.”
• “An Assessment of the Long-Term Impact of the Basic Communication Course.”


Theresa Donofrio, “Competing Visions of Progress and Stasis within the USHMM’s Genocide Cessation Discourse.”

Edward L. Fink:
• “Person-Culture Fit in Cultural Adaptation as Assessed by Convergence of Mental Models.”
• “Cognitive and Cultural Effects on Decision Making: Propositions Regarding Chinese and Americans.”


Dale Hample:
• “Persuasion about Health Risks: Evidence, Credibility, Scientific Flourishes, and Risk Perceptions.”
• “Blurting.”


Sahar Khamis, “Citizen Journalism, Civic Engagement and Political Change in the Arab World: How New Media Tilted the Political and Communication Balance.”

Tiffany Lewis, “Marking the Oregon Trail and Boosting Wyoming: Grace Raymond Hebard’s Commemoration of American Progress.”

Meina Liu, “Person-Culture Fit in Cultural Adaptation as Assessed by Convergence of Mental Models.”

Jessica Lu, “Protecting the (Post)Racial Ideal: The Case of Barack Obama.”

Sean Luechtefeld:
• “Into Obscurity: Economic Arguments in the 2012 Election.”
• Endorsing Florida: An Analysis of the Influence of the Florida Governors’ Endorsement of Presidential Candidates.”

Kelly Madden, “Villain or Victim: Media Representations of Joe Paterno Following the Penn State Sex Abuse Scandal.”


(continued on page 4)

Shawn J. Parry-Giles, “Lincoln Reminiscences as Scraps of Intimate Memories.”

Adam S. Richards:
- “Survival of the Persuasible: An Evolutionary Approach to Interpersonal Influence Based on Nonverbal Source Characteristics.”
- “To Argue or Not Argue: Predictors of the Decision to Engage in Interpersonal Arguments.”
- “A Community of Courses: A Case Study of Course Sequencing in the Communication Curriculum.”
- “Blurting.”

Alyssa Samek:
- “Lessons from Lesbian-Feminists: Considering Queer Coalitional Subjectivities and CommUnity.”

Yvonne Slosarski, “Civics in the Heartland: Mediated Images of Protest in Wisconsin.”


Erich Sommerfeldt:
- “Network Communities of Public Relations Scholarship: The Evolving Structure of Public Relations Theory.”
- “Networks of Social Capital: Extending a Public Relations Model of Civil Society.”


Andrew Wolvin:
- “Listening Tests as Instruction in the Basic Communication Course.”
- “An Assessment of the Long-Term Impact of the Basic Communication Course.”

UM COMM participants in Roundtable Discussions at NCA:
Steven D. Cohen, “Assessment Rubrics: Advantages and Disadvantages” and “Creating CommUnity through Empowerment: Examining Methods of Creating Student Engagement in the Basic Course.”

Edward L. Fink, “Scholars' Office Hours.”

Julie Gowin, “Embracing Alumni in Communities.”

Kathleen Kendall, “The Obama and Republican Opposition Rhetorical Watch: Year Four; Re-Election Campaign, 2012.”

Sahar Khamis, “Arab Women, Innovative Activism and New Media: Resistance Communities in the Arab Spring.”

James F. Klumpp, “A Burkean Call to CommUnity: Addressing the Barnyard Wrangle.”

William Lawson, “Pre-Conference: Reading the Rhetoric of Civil Rights Sit-Ins.”

Meina Liu, “Decoding ‘Tiger Mom’ Controversy: Situated Voices from Diverse Communities.”


Erich Sommerfeldt, “Future Directions of Building and Sustaining CommUnity Relationships through Dialogue.”

Elizabeth L. Toth, “2012 Commission on Public Relations Education Report:

Richards Earns Two Top Papers Designations
Ph.D. student Adam Richards has placed two top papers on the Top Five Graduate Student Papers in Interpersonal Communication panel:

- “Survival of the Persuasible: An Evolutionary Approach to Interpersonal Influence Based on Nonverbal Source Characteristics.”
- “To Argue or Not Argue: Predictors of the Decision to Engage in Interpersonal Arguments” (co-authored with Ioana Cionea).
Welcome to Our Newest Terps

The Department of Communication at the University of Maryland welcomed 15 new graduate students, two new tenure-track faculty members, and additional instructional faculty members for 2012-2013.

New Graduate Students

Hsin-Yi Chien—B.A., National Taiwan University

Rachel Elrom—B.A., Michigan State University

Julia Fraustino—B.A., University of Scranton; M.A., The Pennsylvania State University

Kimberley Hannah—B.A., Henderson State University; M.A., Syracuse University

Lauren Harris—B.A., Wittenberg University

Irina Iles—B.A., Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Amanda Kennedy—B.A., Southwestern University; M.A., University of Houston

Katie Kuhn—B.A., University of Illinois

Thomas McCloskey—B.A., Willamette University; M.A., California State University-Long Beach

Annie Laurie Nichols—B.A., Roberts Wesleyan University

Timothy Penn—B.A., University of California-Santa Cruz; M.A., West Virginia University

Michael Steudeman—B.A., Bradley University; M.A., Northern Illinois University

Meridith Styer—B.A., M.A., Liberty University

Lauren Wint—B.A., Florida Atlantic University; M.A., Syracuse University

Mengqi Zhan—B.A., Zhejiang University, China; M.A., University of Miami

Anita Atwell Seate
Ph.D., University of Arizona

Dr. Seate’s researches in the areas of intergroup/intercultural communication. Specifically, her research is animated by questions about how people’s identity as members of various social group impacts communication processes. She studies a variety of social groups including identities based race, ethnicity, age, gender, and sexual orientation, with an emphasis on racial and ethnic groups. She also examines the portrayals of social groups in the media, and how those portrayals influence people’s attitudes and behaviors toward those social groups.

Erich J. Sommerfeldt
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma

Dr. Sommerfeldt specializes in public relations, with research emphases in activist group communication, civil society, social capital, and social network analysis. Sommerfeldt is also interested in research and evaluation metrics for international development projects and public affairs. His dissertation, “Social capital networks of media NGOs in Peru: A public relations approach to explicating relationships in civil society,” was given the 2010-2011 James E. and Larissa A. Grunig Outstanding Dissertation Award from the public relations division of the International Communication Association. His research has been published in Public Relations Review and The International Journal of Strategic Communication.
New Graduate Studies Program in Interpreting & Translation

Studies in Interpreting & Translation program (GSIT).

The Department of Communication at the University of Maryland is uniquely positioned to offer this program given its focus on intercultural, health, legal, and political communication.

The Department of Communication’s faculty will provide instruction in such theoretical contexts needed for a graduate program in interpreting and translation. Some of the country’s most experienced interpreters and translators will also serve as instructors in the program, ranging from individuals serving the nation’s diplomatic corps, the federal court system, as well as leading health care center in the greater Washington, DC metro area.

The department’s GSIT program becomes only the second full-service interpreting and translation graduate program in the United States.

The GSIT program features the following offerings:

**Interpreting:**

- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Consecutive Interpreting
- Master of Professional Studies in Interpreting (with two tracks): Conference Interpreting; or Public Service Interpreting

**Translation:**

- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Translation
- Master of Professional Studies in Translation (with two tracks): Translation; or Translation and Localization Project Management

To learn more, visit [www.gsit.umd.edu](http://www.gsit.umd.edu)
Graduate Student Achievements

**Lewis Receives Wylie Fellowship**

Doctoral student Tiffany Lewis is one of only 12 College of Arts & Humanities students to receive a prestigious Ann Wylie Fellowship.

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships are one-semester awards intended to support outstanding doctoral students who are in the final stages of writing their dissertation. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships carry a stipend of $10,000 plus candidacy tuition remission and $800 toward the cost of health insurance.

**Hannah Receives McNair Fellowship**

New doctoral student Kimberley Hannah is one of only four College of Arts & Humanities students to receive a McNair Fellowship from the UM Graduate School.

The Graduate School’s McNair Fellowships program will enhance opportunities for our campus doctoral programs to recruit and retain outstanding graduates of McNair undergraduate programs from institutions across the country. McNair Graduate Fellowships will provide entering graduate students with a first-year support package that includes a fellowship stipend of $18,000, plus tuition remission, fees and health insurance.

**Donofrio Awarded USC Fellowship**

Doctoral student Theresa Donofrio is the recipient of a Visiting Ph.D. Candidate Fellowship from the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California.

The Fellowship allows Donofrio to participate in the genocide resistance research cluster, part of the University of Southern California’s Dornsife 2020 research initiatives. She was funded $4,000 for a four-week residency to participate in cluster activities and conduct an analysis of the Museum of Tolerance.

**Donofrio Selected for NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar**

Doctoral student Theresa Donofrio was selected to attend the 2012 NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar, one of only 36 students selected for the DHS from over 100 nominees.

Donofrio presented a selection of material from her dissertation at the DHS and participated in meetings and seminars with other graduate students and faculty seminar leaders. The 2012 DHS was hosted by the Annenberg School of Communication & Journalism at the University of Southern California.

**Graduate Students Present Research, Receive Awards**

Many UM Department of Communication graduate students presented research and received awards at regional and national communication conferences during 2012.

At the Eastern Communication Association in April, 2012:

- Srashri Das
- Tiffany Lewis
- Sean Luechtefeld (recipient, 2012 ECA Centennial Scholarship)
- Jade Olson
- Ning Xie

At the International Communication Association in May, 2012:

- Melissa Janoske
- Jarim Kim
- Kelly Madden
- Sejal Patel
- Adam Richards

At the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication, August, 2012:

- Rowena Briones (recipient, 2012 Barrows Scholarship Award)
- Melissa Janoske
- Kelly Madden
- Michael Paquette

At the Public Relations Society of America International Conference, October, 2012:

- Liang Ma
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


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 – ICA Fisher Mentorship Award, IPR Hamilton Medal, NCA Diamond Anniversary Book Award, PRSA Diversity Champion Award

Award-winning graduate students & alumni – IACM Outstanding Dissertation Award, IPR Ketchum Award, NCA Golden Prize in Rhetoric, NCA Miller Outstanding Dissertation Award

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

FELLOWSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Communication
2130 Skinner Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7635 • 301.405.0870

OUR GRADUATE FACULTY
Edward L. Fink
Robert N. Gaines
James E. Grunig (emeritus)
Larissa A. Grunig (emerita)
Dale Hample
Kathleen E. Kendall
Sahar Mohamed Khamis
James F. Klumpp
Brooke Fisher Liu
Meina Liu
Kristy Maddux
Xiaoli Nan
Shawn J. Parry-Giles
Trevor Parry-Giles
Anita Atwell Seate
Erich Sommerfeldt
Elizabeth L. Toth
Leah Waks
Andrew D. Wolvin

To learn more about our department, or to apply online, visit our Web site: www.comm.umd.edu