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 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. 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 the NCA Annual Convention include the following:

- **Rebecca Alt**
  - “WHY ME?: Articulations of the “Good Sport Performing Well” in “The Price of Gold”

- **Lindsey B. Anderson**
  - “Understanding Risk Discourse and Retirement Planning: The Case of Prudential Financial “
  - “Training and Mentoring International GTAs in the Basic Course”
  - “Workplace Adversity and Resilience in Public Relations: Accounting for the Lived Experiences of Public Relations Practitioners”
  - “Being Called to Mentor: Understanding the Complexities of Mentoring Basic Course Instructors”
  - “Constructing Narratives of Success in the Basic Course: Using Written Self-Assessments to Understand Students’ Perceptions of Learning”
  - “Developing Resilience in the Workplace: Examining the Intersections of Age, Emotion, and Resilience”
  - “Bridge Employment and the Changing Face of Retirement: Exploring Retirees’ Emotions, Motivations, and Goals”
  - “Extending Narrative Empathy and ‘Facing’ Ethical Challenges in Nonprofit Organizations: The Case of Kiva”

- **Anita Atwell Seate**
  - “Neighborhoods as a Context for Intergroup Contact: Understanding the Factors of Prejudice”
  - “Cultivating Intergroup Emotions: An Intergroup Threat Theory Approach”
  - “The influence of listener gender and self-perception of social support giving on reactions to stigmatizing interpersonal rape disclosures”

- **Katie M. Brown**
  - “How To Video Exams”
  - “Last Week Tonight’s Supporting Materials”

- **Jaclyn Bruner**
  - “Attempting to Right the Wrongs of the Past: Emmett Till as an Eponym for Justice”

- **Luke Capizzo**
  - “The Right Side of History, Inc.: Corporate public engagement and the Obergefell v. Hodges decision”

- **Hsin-Yi Chien**
  - “Cultivating Intergroup Emotions: An Intergroup Threat Theory Approach”
  - “When the Whole Country Cares Who We Date: A Narrative Analysis of Taiwanese and International News Coverage of Interracial Intimacy”
  - “Neighborhoods as a Context for Intergroup Contact: Understanding the Factors of Prejudice”

- **Yiwen Dai**
  - “Re-conceptualizing Argument Type: The Utility of Arguments about Others’ Personal Issues”

- **Megan Irene Fitzmaurice**
  - “Avenging the Ancestors and Commemorative Resistance at the President’s House”
  - “A Strategic Reversal: The National Association of Colored Women’s Narrative Reframing of the Mammy Monument”

- **Brooke M. Fowler**
  - “The 6 Word Memoir Challenge: An exercise of the power of words and design”
Sylvia Guo
“Toward an Inclusive Renewal-Oriented Postcrisis Response: Advancing Theoretical Horizons in Crisis Communication”
“Workplace Adversity and Resilience in Public Relations: Accounting for the Lived Experiences of Public Relations Practitioners”
“Bridge Employment and the Changing Face of Retirement: Exploring Retirees’ Emotions, Motivations, and Goals”

Kimberley J. Hannah-Prater
“Drawing Hillary Clinton into History: Political Cartoonists’ Depictions of Clinton’s 2008 Presidential Campaign”

Lauren R. Harris
“More Beef, Less Bull: The Intersection of Agrarian and Expediency Ideologies in Recent Congressional Campaigns”

Morgan Hess
“Re-thinking Patriotism in Contemporary America”

Savreen Hundal
“The influence of listener gender and self-perception of social support giving on reactions to stigmatizing interpersonal rape disclosures”

Lauren P. Hunter
“Once Upon A-Dopted: Bush 41 and Redeeming the Adoptable”
Irina Iles
“The influence of listener gender and self-perception of social support giving on reactions to stigmatizing interpersonal rape disclosures”
“Chocolate or VitaChocolate: How Product Name Influences Perceptions of Snack Food Healthfulness”

Amanda L. Irions
“The influence of listener gender and self-perception of social support giving on reactions to stigmatizing interpersonal rape disclosures”

Kathleen E. Kendall
“My Reflections on the 2016 Presidential Election”

Brooke Liu
“Communicating Episodic Risk: Theoretical and Methodological Advances in the Study of Imminent Threat Warnings”

Sean Luechtefeld
“Modern Political Campaigning: Analyzing the Effectiveness of New Campaign Methods with Millennial Voters”

Rong Ma
“Cultivating Intergroup Emotions: An Intergroup Threat Theory Approach”
“Neighborhoods as a Context for Intergroup Contact: Understanding the Factors of Prejudice”

Zexin (Marsha) Ma
“Positive Facts or Negative Stories: Message Framing as a Moderator of Narrative Persuasion”

Thomas McCloskey
“‘We Will Destroy Them:’ Unifying Russian Myths and Vladimir Putin’s Rise to Power”

Nora Murphy
“Reverse Tokenism and Code-Switching: A Ripe Moment for a Speech about Race, Obama’s NAACP Address on Prison Reform”
“Pedagogy of Peace and Conflict: Building and Sharing Communication Curriculum to Transform”

Michelle L. Murray Yang
“Re-Imagining Ruins through Enargeia: The Ruins of Detroit”

Xiaoli Nan
“Chocolate or VitaChocolate: How Product Name Influences Perceptions of Snack Food Healthfulness”
“Positive Facts or Negative Stories: Message Framing as a Moderator of Narrative Persuasion”
“How Self-Affirmation Influences Nonsmokers’ Responses to Self-Congruent vs. Self-Incongruent Anti-Smoking Messages”

Annie Laurie Nichols
“Race-ing Burkean Rhetoric: Kenneth Burke, Racial Conflict, and the Desire for Transcendence”
Shawn J. Parry-Giles
“Rhetorical Strategies, Implications and Consequences of the 2016 Unprecedented Presidential Campaign”
“Digital Rhetoric, Digital Humanities: Theorizing a Juncture”
“Spotlight Panel 2016 Election: Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Presidential Campaign Rhetoric”
“FOIA at 50: History, Theory, Practice”

Trevor Parry-Giles
“How to Get Published ... and Read”
“Communication’s Civic Callings: Attacks on Communication and Technology Research and the Future of NSF-Funded Projects”

Damien Smith Pfister
“Walking with Wearables”

Yan Qin
“Framing interaction between media and individual users on the Internet: A content analysis on the case of Beina Yao’s death from breast cancer”

Devin Scott
“Political Authenticity Expectation Frameworks: The 2016 Democratic Presidential Primary Candidate Announcements”
“Using the Online Poverty Simulator SPENT to Discuss Civics and Teach Group and Interpersonal Communication”
“Spring Break Forever: The Discordant Spring Breakers”

Yvonne Slosarski
“Articulating Authentic Social Change: Leftist Constructions of Wisconsin’s Labor Protests”
Janna Soeder
“The Greenbelt Museum: House and Community Museums as Frameworks for Memory and Narrative”

Erich Sommerfeldt

Samantha Stanley
“Tuning it Out: Consequences of Missed Cues to Action in College Male HPV Prevention”

Kyle Stephan
“The Plan de San Diego: Leveraging Hybridity through Violence and Border Identity”

“Race-ing Burkean Rhetoric: Kenneth Burke, Racial Conflict, and the Desire for Transcendence”

“White History Month: Dialogue on Teaching and Learning Strategies to Interrogate Pedagogical Whiteness in the Classroom, across College Campuses and Beyond”

Meridith Styer
“Worldly Women, Women’s Rights: The Declaration of Rights for Women and Generic Violation at the 1876 World’s Fair”

“Women Speakers, Do Not Hesitate:’ Invention and Delivery in Susan B. Anthony’s Extemporaneous Discourse”

“Hoodie Today, Gown Tomorrow: The Problematic and Productive Queer Potential of Gender Neutral Clothing”

“The Pen of Puritan Womanhood: Anne Badstreet’s Personal Poetry as a Catechism on Godly Womanhood”

Claire Tills
“Speaking Relay: Practicing Delivery and Building Classroom Rapport in the Basic Course”

Leah Waks
“The influence of listener gender and self-perception of social support giving on reactions to stigmatizing interpersonal rape disclosures”

Andrew D. Wolvin
“Constructing Narratives of Success in the Basic Course: Using Written Self-Assessments to Understand Students’ Perceptions of Learning”

Carly S. Woods
“The Problem with ‘Purple Penguins:’ Gender Trouble in Lincoln Public Schools”

Sifan Xu
“When Identity Becomes Salient and Connected to the Organization: We Are in This Together”


Bo Yang
“How Self-Affirmation Influences Nonsmokers’ Responses to Self-Congruent vs. Self-Incongruent Anti-Smoking Messages”

Mengqi Zhan
“Re-conceptualizing Argument Type: The Utility of Arguments about Others’ Personal Issues”

Xinyan Zhao
“Influence of Risk Perception and Internet Trust on Cancer Information Seeking and Scanning Online”