

# GRADUATE STUDIES IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



What makes Communication Studies an extraordinary place for graduate studies?

## High Quality Graduate Education

*Faculty in Communication Studies are renowned for their commitment to teaching, research, and student advising. The department has won major awards in all three areas! Individual faculty members have won many awards within the university and the discipline. Below is a partial list of faculty awards.*

### AWARDS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Byron Alexander Graduate Mentor Award—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

2007 Robert C. Rowland

2003 Mary Lee Hummert

Center for Teaching Excellence Award for Communication Studies

2002 Dorthy Pennington

2002 Adrienne Kunkel

2000 Robert C. Rowland

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Career Teaching Award

2014 Donn W. Parson

H. Bernard Fink Award for Outstanding Classroom Teaching:

1994 Robert C. Rowland

HOPE Award Finalist presented by the Senior Class

2000 Tracy A. Russo

1994 Robert C. Rowland

1990 Robert C. Rowland

J. Michael Young Advisor Award—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

2008 Robert C. Rowland

2002 Robert C. Rowland

JHAWK Faculty Appreciation Award, University of Kansas Medical Center

2013 David Cook

KU Women's Hall of Fame:

2005 Dorthy Pennington

2003 Mary Lee Hummert

Louise E. Byrd Graduate Educator Award:

2000 Robert C. Rowland

Ned N. Fleming Trust Award

2015 Jeff Hall

2012 Dave Tell

Outstanding Woman Faculty Member—The Commission on the Status of Women and the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center:

2003 Adrienne Kunkel

Silver Anniversary Award for Excellence in Teaching:

2004 Adrienne Kunkel

Steeple Award for Service to the People of Kansas:

1999 Dorthy Pennington

W. T. Kemper Fellowship Teaching Excellence:

2008 Mary Banwart

2007 Yan Bing Zhang

2006 Beth Manolescu

2003 Tracy Russo

2000 Mary Lee Hummert

1997 Donn Parson

1996 Robert C. Rowland

John C. Wright Mentor Award

2011 Adrienne Kunkel

## TEACHING AND SERVICE AWARDS WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE AND COMMUNITY

Central States Communication Association Young Teacher Award:

2004 Adrienne Kunkel

1968 Donn W. Parson

Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education—National Communication Association:

2005 Robert C. Rowland

George Ziegelmüller Award—National Debate Tournament:

2006 Scott Harris

2003 Donn W. Parson

IARR (International Association for Relationship Research) Mentoring Award

2014 Adrienne Kunkel

Kansas Statewide Transgender Project Education Award

2012 Adrienne Kunkel

National Communication Association Teacher on Teaching Program

2014 Tracy Russo

2005 Tracy Russo

1999 Robert C. Rowland

1997 Dorthy Pennington

National Communication Association Wallace Bacon Lifetime Teaching Award

2014 Donn W. Parson

National Communication Association Women's Caucus, Francine Merritt Award

2015 Adrienne Kunkel

Kansas Bar Association—Outstanding Service Award:

2003 Robert C. Rowland

National Debate Coach of the Decade:

1970s Donn W. Parson

National Debate Coach of the Year:

2006 Scott Harris

1986 Robert C. Rowland

1981 Donn W. Parson

1980 Donn W. Parson

1972 Donn W. Parson

The OSCLG (the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender) Feminist-Teacher Mentor Award

2014 Adrienne Kunkel

Central States Communication Association Hall of Fame

2015 Dorthy Pennington

2011 Donn W. Parson

2004 Wil Linkugel

## RESEARCH AWARDS

American Forensic Association Research Award, 1988, for “On Defining Argument,” Robert C. Rowland, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 20 (1987): 140-159.

B. Aubrey Fisher Article Award, 2004, *Western Journal of Communication*, for “The Rhetoric of Hindu Nationalism: A Narrative of Mythic Redefinition,” Robert C. Rowland, second author with Abhik Roy.

Bill Eadie Distinguished Award for a Scholarly Article, Applied Communication Division, National Communication Association, 2014. Adrienne Kunkel.

Bill Eadie Distinguished Award for a Scholarly Article, 2016, Applied Communication Division, National Communication Association for “Changing deliberative norms on news organization Facebook sites,” Ashley Muddiman with co-authors, Natalie J. Stroud, Joshua M. Scacco, and Alexander L. Curry.

Douglas W. Ehninger Rhetorical Scholar Award, National Communication Association, 2011, Robert C. Rowland.

Giles-Nussbaum Distinguished Scholar Award, Commission on Communication and Aging, National Communication Association, 1997, Mary Lee Hummert.

Golden Anniversary Monograph Award, National Communication Association, 2013, “The Meanings of Kansas: Rhetoric, Regions, and Counter Regions,” *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, 42 (2012): 214-232, Dave Tell.

Interpersonal Division, National Communication Association, Early Career Award, 2015, Jeff Hall.

*Journal of Family Communication* Outstanding Article Award, 2013, Alesia Wozidlo.

Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award, National Communication Association, 2012, Dave Tell.

Keynote Reagan Centennial Conference, “Principle, Pragmatism, and Authenticity in Reagan’s Rhetoric,” USC/Reagan Library, February 2011, Robert C. Rowland.

Keynote, National Communication Association Conference on Rhetorical Criticism, “Purpose, Evidence, and Pedagogy in Rhetorical Criticism,” University of Puget Sound, July 2010, Tacoma, Washington, Robert C. Rowland.

Kohrs-Campbell Prize in Rhetorical Criticism, National Communication Association, 2003, for *Shared Land/Conflicting Identity: Trajectories of Israeli and Palestinian Symbol Use*, Robert C. Rowland, author with David Frank.

Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, 2013, *Confessional Crises and Cultural Politics in Twentieth-Century America* (Pennsylvania State University Press), Dave Tell.

Midwest Forensic Association Best Essay in Argumentation, 1987, for “On Defining Argument,” Robert C. Rowland, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 20 (1987): 140-159.

Midwest Forensic Association Best Forensic Essay, 1986, for “The Relationship Between Realism and Debatability in Policy Advocacy,” Robert C. Rowland *Journal of the American Forensic Association*, 22 (1986): 125-134.

Political Communication Division, National Communication Association, Outstanding Article Award for “Recasting the American Dream and American Politics: Barack Obama’s Keynote Address to the 2004 Democratic National Convention,” November 2009, Robert C. Rowland with John Jones.

#### MAJOR AWARDS WON AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES

Baylor University Student Congress, Outstanding Faculty Member:  
1987 Robert C. Rowland

#### BREADTH AND DEPTH OF PROGRAM OFFERINGS

*Communication Studies has a strong core of faculty who teach, advise, and research in the areas of rhetorical and argumentation studies, political communication, and interpersonal and group communication.*

#### Rhetorical Studies and Argumentation Faculty

Brett Bricker, Ph.D., University of Kansas—argumentation and the public sphere  
 Jay Childers, Ph.D., University of Texas—public sphere and contemporary rhetoric  
 Scott Harris, Ph.D., Northwestern University—argumentation studies and contemporary rhetoric  
 Beth Innocenti, Ph.D., University of Illinois—argumentation studies and public address  
 Dorthy Pennington, Ph.D., University of Kansas—African-American rhetoric  
 Robert C. Rowland, Ph.D., University of Kansas—rhetorical criticism, narrative and mythic studies, argumentation, and contemporary rhetorical practice  
 Dave Tell, Ph.D., Penn State—rhetorical criticism and critical/cultural analysis

#### Political Communication Faculty

Mary Banwart, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma—campaign communication and gender issues in political communication  
 Brett Bricker, Ph.D., University of Kansas—environmental rhetoric  
 Jay Childers, Ph.D., University of Texas—political communication and citizen engagement

Ashley Muddiman, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin—political media effects, political incivility, and digital news  
Robert C. Rowland, Ph.D., University of Kansas—campaign communication, contemporary presidential rhetoric, and political debates  
Alcides Velasquez, Ph.D., Michigan State University—social media political activism, social media political effects, and social media and online political participation and expression

### **Interpersonal and Group Faculty**

Tom Beisecker, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin—legal communication and persuasion  
Dave Cook, Ph.D., University of Kansas—health and organizational communication  
Angela N. Gist, Ph.D., University of Missouri—organizational communication  
Jeff Hall, Ph.D., University of Southern California—interpersonal communication  
Mary Lee Hummert, Ph.D., University of Kansas—interpersonal communication and aging  
Adrienne Kunkel, Ph.D., Purdue University—interpersonal communication  
Angie Pastorek, Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin—organizational communication  
Dorothy Pennington, Ph.D., University of Kansas—intercultural communication  
Alesia Wozidlo, Ph.D., University of Arizona—interpersonal communication  
Yan Bing Zhang, Ph.D., University of Kansas—interpersonal and intergroup communication

*Communication Studies faculty excel at research and a number of faculty members are recognized as national and international scholars of renown. Below is a partial list of faculty accomplishments:*

#### **Mary Banwart**

- Recipient of the Central States Communication Association Service Award and a participant selected for the Harvard Kennedy School Art and Practice of Leadership Development program.
- Principal Investigator and Academic Director of a nearly \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. State Department focused on the creation of a Women's Leadership Institute for women from the Middle East and North Africa.
- Well-known political communication scholar using multiple social science and qualitative methods to produce research that has been published in books and journal articles focused on gender in political communication.

#### **Tom Beisecker**

- Recognized leading scholar in legal communication and former president of the American Society of Trial Consultants.
- Inaugural Visiting Fellow in Legal Advocacy, University of Kansas Law School, 2011-2012.

### **Brett Bricker**

- Has a developed research program focused on environmental rhetoric that includes publications in *Argumentation and Advocacy*; the *Western Journal of Communication*, and *Communication Studies*, among other journals.
- Has linked environmental communication to study of the public sphere, multiple publics, and counterpublics in a number of essays.

### **Jay Childers**

- Author of *The Evolving Citizen: American Youth and the Changing Norms of Democratic Engagement* (Penn State Press, 2012); *Political Tone: How Leaders Talk and Why*, with Roderick Hart and Colene Lind (University of Chicago Press, 2013).
- Has developed an important research program focused on rhetoric, politics, and democracy in a number of journal essays, including “The Democratic Balance: President McKinley’s Assassination as Domestic Trauma,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* (2013), 156-179, an essay which is being developed into a book.

### **Dave Cook**

- A leading scholar focused on communication, technology, and health care.
- Oversaw KU Med Centers’s continuing education activities.
- Led three major mass casualty simulation drills to educate and train communities in disaster response.

### **Angela N. Gist**

- Organizational communication scholar with expertise in social mobility and power
- Participates in engaged scholarship with community-based organizations
- Developing a program of critical interpretive research that emerges out of the intersection of three areas of interest: social class, social identity, and organizational culture

### **Jeff Hall**

- Has developed a broad program of research on flirting, friendship, humor, impression management and social media, which has appeared in top journals including *Communication Research*, *Human Communication Research*, and *New Media & Society*.
- Received the Early Career Award from the Interpersonal Division of the National Communication Association in 2015.
- His trade press book *The Five Flirting Styles* landed him on *The Steve Harvey Show* and magazines, newspapers, radio, and television programs nation-wide.

### **Scott Harris**

- Inaugural Gene A. Budig Professor at the University of Kansas in honor of his work with argumentation and debate.
- A leading proponent of using academic debate as a vehicle for studying argument in the public sphere.

### **Mary Lee Hummert**

- Fellow, Gerontological Association of America and Giles-Nussbaum Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Communication Association.
- A leading scholar studying aging and communication with numerous articles in leading journals, many book chapters, and two edited books.
- Three-time recipient of major grants from the National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health.

### **Beth Innocenti**

- Has developed normative pragmatic theories of argument with a focus on emotion and style in essays published in *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, *Argumentation*, and *Argumentation and Advocacy*.
- Has published essays on Scottish Enlightenment rhetorical theories in *Rhetorica*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *Rhetoric Review*, and *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*.
- Has provided humanistic accounts of persuasive force that supplement social scientific theories such as the EPPM and ELM.

### **Adrienne Kunkel**

- Has recently published two books—*Researching Interpersonal Relationships* (with Dr. Jimmie Manning, 2014) and co-edited *Relationship Science: Integrating Evolutionary, Neuroscience, and Sociocultural Approaches* (with Dr. Omri Gillath and Dr. Glenn Adams, 2012).
- Has developed a research program reflected in multiple articles in journals inside and outside the discipline focused on individual and group identity and how they are influenced by social support processes.

### **Ashley Muddiman**

- Has developed a research program focused on the theoretical and normative implications of media effects, political incivility, and digital news.
- Received the 2014 Lynda Lee Kaid Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association.
- Has been involved with several foundation-funded grant projects, including a project focused on engagement with digital news (with the Engaging News Project) and a project investigating political fact checking (with the American Press Institute).

### **Angie Pastorek**

- Collaborative applied organizational communication researcher on issues ranging from fair labor practices to the death penalty and medical consent documentation. Findings and recommendations earned publication in both public sector reports and top communication journals, including *Communication Monographs* and *Health Communication*.

- Theoretical research focuses on exploring organizational exit dynamics based on over 10 years corporate practitioner experience in the fields of global corporate communication, training and development, and management consulting.
- Published textbook chapters on workplace professionalism for millennials (2015) and managing team conflict (2013, 2015). Earned campus-wide Best Service Learning undergraduate course award in 2013 while completing her PhD at UT - Austin.

### **Dorothy Pennington**

- Author of two books exploring rhetorical practices and cultural diversity.
- Has developed a significant research program in journal articles and book chapters focused on African-American rhetorical practice and intercultural communication.
- A leading proponent of integrating performance into rhetorical scholarship; she is especially well-known for her critical performances on Sojourner Truth.
- Honored by the NCA Feminist and Women's Studies Division as a noted intercultural scholar and mentor.

### **Robert C. Rowland**

- Has published three university press books, one of which (*Shared Land/Conflicting Identity*, with co-author David Frank) won the inaugural Kohrs/Campbell Prize in Rhetorical Criticism.
- Recipient of the Douglas W. Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award from the National Communication Association and primary speaker on rhetoric at the Reagan Centennial held at USC and the Reagan Library.
- Has published 50 journal articles and book chapters and more than 90 total publications including articles in *Communication Monographs*, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, *Communication Theory*, the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and all of the regional journals and main journals in argumentation.
- Editor-Elect, *Western Journal of Communication*. Rowland is the first editor selected from outside the Western region.

### **Dave Tell**

- Recipient of National Communication Association and Rhetoric Society of America dissertation awards.
- Recipient of Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award for *Confessional Crises and Cultural Politics in the Twentieth-Century* (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2012).
- Recipient of both the Golden Anniversary Monograph Award and the Karl R. Wallace Award from the National Communication Association.
- A leading scholar in rhetorical theory with articles in *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, *Rhetorica*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and other important journals.



### **Alcides Velazquez**

- Originally from Colombia, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to develop his Ph.D. studies in the United States. He was also the 2015 Langston Hughes visiting professor at University of Kansas.
- Has developed a research program focused on social media individual and collective activism, social media political expression, and the digital divide. His research has been published in top journals such as *New Media and Society*, *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, *International Journal of Communication*, and *Information, Communication and Society*.

### **Alesia Wozidlo**

- Examines the intersection of family of origin experiences, mental health and personality (e.g., attachment styles, anxiety, depression, negative affectivity, and stress), communication processes (e.g., conflict resolution strategies, coping, family cohesion and adaptability, and social skills), and relationship quality (e.g., commitment, dedication, divorce proneness, and satisfaction) among family relationships (e.g., marital dyads, parent-child dyads and triads).
- Fulbright Scholar, Institute of Psychology, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany (2012-2013).
- Article of the Year from *Journal of Family Communication* (2013).

### **Yan Bing Zhang**

- Has developed an extensive research program with thirty-five published journal articles focused on intergroup communication with a particular focus on age and cultural groups. She is interested in the ways in which cognitive (e.g., stereotypes), societal norms (e.g., filial piety), and institutional (e.g., mass media) representations of groups relate to communication processes.
- Her publications have appeared in *Journal of Communication*, *Communication Monographs*, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*, and *New Media & Society*.

### **A Commitment to Student Development and a Student-Friendly Culture**

Communication Studies has a strong commitment to help graduate students develop as scholars, teachers, and professionals. The department's commitment to students is evidenced in assessment data reporting very high student satisfaction. Alumni surveys reflect a similar finding. Additional evidence of the student-centered nature of the program can be found in the extensive development effort the department has developed for graduate students. Highlights of the development effort include:

## Nurturing Teaching

Teaching Workshop--New GTAs participate in an intensive teaching workshop in August before they begin teaching and taking classes at KU. The workshop helps prepare them to teach the required public speaking class, but also more broadly gives them pedagogical skills that they can apply in a variety of contexts. The training workshop is so strong that when the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Kansas initiated efforts to improve GTA training across the university, the COMS program was used as a model for other departments.

Instruction in Pedagogy—New GTAs take a 2-credit class in the Fall semester of their first year at KU focused on pedagogy in Communication Studies. The class is focused on the basic public speaking class, but the topics covered apply across the curriculum. As with the teaching workshop, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at KU has cited this class as a model for other departments.

## Professional Development

On an annual basis, COMS offers eight 90-minute professional development workshops. At the workshops, faculty and senior graduate students help graduate students develop key professional skills. The professional development workshop includes:

Basics of convention submission—this workshop covers the basics of submitting papers and panels to conventions in Communication Studies and related disciplines.

CV development—this workshop covers the basics of constructing an academic CV. Faculty and senior graduate students will provide models and tips for CV construction.

Library research skills—this workshop introduces students to available databases and search strategies for finding material to use in their teaching and research.

Job search process—this workshop outlines the job search process. The focus is on informing second- and third-year doctoral students on the process so that they can be prepared to search for an academic position in their final year in the doctoral program.

Convention presentations—this workshop provides practical tips for making an effective convention presentation. This workshop provides models for how to make a presentation stand out.

Job talks—this workshop provides guidance on how to make an effective job talk either in a phone or an on-campus interview. Job candidates are encouraged to practice their job talks with their advisor prior to the interview.

Nuts and bolts of research—this workshop covers the basic principles of how to submit an article and how to pick a journal for submission, as well as tips for how to develop a research program.

Work life balance—this workshop focuses on the challenges faced by young faculty members and provides strategies for addressing those challenges and building a successful and fulfilling career.

### **Research Development**

Communication Studies works very hard to nurture the research programs of graduate students. Many faculty members focus assignments in graduate classes on helping students develop a research record. In addition, the department has three other research development initiatives:

### **Colloquium Series**

Each year, the department hosts an active colloquium series in which faculty, major scholars from other departments at KU and other universities, and senior graduate students present research to the department. The series for the most recent semester is included elsewhere on the website.

This series provides an opportunity for senior graduate students to present their work, for faculty in the department to talk about important new research projects and for distinguished guests from across the discipline to present research. In the last category among the distinguished scholars to present research in the colloquium series in recent years are David Zarefsky of Northwestern, Karlyn Kohrs Campbell of the University of Minnesota, J. Michael Hogan of Penn State, Chris Segrin of the University of Arizona, and Martin J. Medhurst of Baylor University.

### **Research Mentoring, Workshops, and Classes**

COMS faculty have active programs to mentor graduate students to help them develop papers for presentation at the colloquium, as well as submission to conventions and journals. For example, the department offers a writing workshop series in which students present revised versions of a class paper in order to get feedback to assist in revising for submission to a journal or convention. In addition, faculty members provide feedback to students developing papers from faculty experts in an area of study, as well as the student's faculty advisor. This takes several different forms. First, it takes the form of intensive mentoring. Second, it takes the form of participation in research teams. Third, it takes the form of coursework. The courses include Directed Study projects as well as a tutorial in which the students work intensively with the faculty member through multiple drafts in order to revise two essays for submission to journals in the field.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Communication Studies is very proud of the accomplishments of current graduate students. Current students have received college and university wide teaching awards, published essays in regional and national journals, and otherwise been honored for their work. Additionally, there are opportunities for graduate students to be recognized for their outstanding teaching, research, and service, through numerous fellowships and scholarships given at the department level. These awards total ~\$20,000 and are given during the spring semester at the end of the year department party.

**Cassandra Bird** received the J. Jeffery Auer Award for Top Student Paper in Political Communication at the 2015 Central States Communication Association, as well as another award for a paper in the Top Paper Panel in the Basic Course Division.

**Brendon Bankey** had a paper in the top paper panel of the Association of Rhetoric of Science and Technology at the 2015 National Communication Association (NCA) convention.

**Michael Eisenstadt** received an award for the Top Paper in Critical Cultural Studies at the 2015 NCA convention.

**Lindsay Harroff** was awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year to study KiSwahili, Kansas African Studies Center. She also had a paper, "Witnessing South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: New Opportunities for Studying and Forming Community after Conflict," on the top paper panel in the Peace and Conflict Division at the 2015 NCA convention.

**Michael Kearney** had a paper on the Top Paper Panel of Central States Communication Association's Graduate Student Caucus, co-authored an essay in the 2015 publication *Computers in Human Behavior*, and also had three single-authored encyclopedia entries in the forthcoming M. R. Allen (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods*, as well as an essay in the *National Journal of Speech and Debate*

**John Price** served as Chair of the Central States Argumentation and Forensics Special Interest Group 2014-2015.

**Chong Xing** co-authored an encyclopedia entry in the forthcoming In M. R. Allen (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods*, as well as published co-authored essays in *Communication Methods and Measures*, *Communication Research*, and the *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*.

## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STUDENT PLACEMENT

### ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Departmental alumni have developed distinguished careers in and out of the discipline of communication studies. Former students have served in major leadership roles in national and regional organizations. For example, Dr. Bill Balthrop of the University of North Carolina served as president first of the American Forensic Association and later of the National Communication Association. Dr. Kevin Barger of Texas A&M served as president of the Central States Communication Association, while Dr. Shelly Hinck served as executive secretary. Many other examples of professional accomplishment could be cited.

In addition to professional leadership, department alumni have been recognized for their strong scholarly and teaching records. Below are listed a few examples drawn from the large category of distinguished alumni of the Ph.D. program in Communication Studies at the University of Kansas.

Bill Balthrop, Professor—University of North Carolina  
Kevin Barge, Professor—Texas A & M University  
Ryan Bisel, Associate Professor—University of Oklahoma  
Ulla Bunz, Associate Professor—Florida State University  
Tom Burkholder, Professor Emeritus—University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Scott Campbell, Associate Professor—University of Michigan  
Scott Chadwick, Professor and Provost—Xavier University  
Phillip Clampett, Professor—University of Wisconsin, Green Bay  
Erik Doxtader, Professor—University of South Carolina  
Gus Friedrich, Professor Emeritus—Rutgers University  
John Fritch, Professor—University of Northern Iowa  
Tom Goodnight, Professor—University of Southern California  
Michael Hazen, Professor—Wake Forest University  
Ed Hinck, Professor—Central Michigan University  
Shelly Hinck, Professor and Associate Dean—Central Michigan University  
Mary Hoffman, Professor—University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire  
Susan Huxman, Professor and President—Eastern Mennonite University  
Randy Lake, Associate Professor—University of Southern California  
Andrew Ledbetter, Associate Professor—Texas Christian University  
Karla Leeper, Chief of Staff—Georgia Regents University  
John McGrath, Professor—Trinity University  
Caryn Medved, Associate Professor—Baruch College  
Stephanie Kelley-Romano, Professor—Bates College  
Jordan Soliz, Associate Professor—University of Nebraska Lincoln  
Mary Tonn, Professor—University of Richmond  
Gregg Walker, Professor—Oregon State University

## STUDENT PLACEMENT

The very partial list of KU alumni included above is one indication of the quality of the program. Another can be found in recent student placement data. The department has tracked student placement of every completed Ph.D. since 2000 and their initial or current academic or professional position. The list indicates to date 100 percent placement in either academic jobs or positions related to their degree in business, politics, the law, or other relevant fields. Many Communication Studies Ph.D. graduates pursue and achieve an academic career in research universities, teaching institutions and liberal arts colleges. They have gone on to careers in academic administration, the law, and the business world. The one constant among graduates with very different goals is that their coursework and other doctoral study at KU prepared them for great success in their chosen field or sub-field. A representative list of where doctoral graduates have been placed since 2008 is listed below.

Stephenson Beck—North Dakota State University  
Ryan Bisel—University of Oklahoma  
Kundai Chirindo—Lewis and Clark College  
Makiko Imamura—St. Mary's College  
Pam Kennedy—H & R Block, Kansas City  
Sarah Partlow Lefevre—Idaho State University  
Sue Novak—State University of New York, Potsdam  
Kyle Richards, Kearney & Company, Washington, D.C.  
Ryan Neville Shepard—University of Arkansas  
Yi Song—Beijing Foreign Studies University  
Kirsten Theye—Concordia College  
Sarah Topp—Trinity University  
Astrid Villamil—University of Missouri  
Ben Warner—University of Missouri

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES AT KU—GREAT TRAINING FOR A ROLE IN ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Doctoral education in Communication Studies at KU not only trains students for success in their chosen career, but also for leadership positions in academia, the law and business. Many departmental alumni have served as department chairs, associate deans, and deans. The list is a very long one. Below we list only Ph.D. alumni who have gone on to academic leadership at the level of the Provost, Vice-President, or President in academia or a similar level in business or the law.

Noreen Carrocci, President, Newman College  
Scott Chadwick, Provost, Xavier University  
Dave Cook, Vice Chancellor, University of Kansas  
Jackson Harrell, President, The Harrell Group  
Mary Lee Hummert, Vice Provost, University of Kansas

Susan Huxman, President, Eastern Mennonite University  
Howard Keim, President, Hesston College  
Karla Leeper, Chief of Staff, Georgia Regents University  
Karen Lisko, Senior Litigation Consultant, Persuasion Strategies  
Shelley Spiecker, Senior Litigation Consultant, Persuasion Strategies  
Pam Whitten, Provost, University of Georgia

For further information on graduate education in Communication Studies at the University of Kansas please contact Dr. Robert C. Rowland, the Director of Graduate Studies for the department at [rrowland@ku.edu](mailto:rrowland@ku.edu) or call him at 785-864-3633.

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