

# CHRISTINE E. RITTENOUR

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## Professional Appointments

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- 2009 – Present    Assistant Professor, Communication Studies Department, West Virginia University
- 2011 – Present    Faculty Associate, Center for Women’s and Gender Studies at West Virginia University
- 2006 – 2010       Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2003 – 2005       Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Department, West Virginia University

## Education

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- 2009    Ph.D., University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
         Primary Emphasis: Family and Interpersonal Communication  
         Secondary Emphases: Women's and Gender Studies (Graduate Certificate)  
   Rhetoric and Culture
- 2004    Master of Arts, West Virginia University  
         Emphasis: Communication Theory and Research
- 2003    Bachelor of Arts, The Pennsylvania State University  
         Majors: Communication Arts and Sciences  
                 Public Relations  
         Minor: Women’s Studies

## Honors and Awards

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### Research

- 2014    Top Paper, Applied Communication Division of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2012    Top Four Paper, Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association (w/ C. Fowler), Orlando, Florida.
- 2011    Outstanding Manuscript Award, Central States Communication Association (w/ S. Myers)
- 2010    Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division of the Central States Communication Association (w/ S. Myers), Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2010    Top Four Paper, Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association (w/ C. Fowler & J. Soliz), San Francisco, California.

- 2010 Invited Presentation, Speaker Series, University of San Francisco Committee on Children and Youth
- 2009 Grant Recipient, Organization for Research of Women and Communication's Research Development Grant (w/ C. Colaner)
- 2008 Presidential Fellow (top fellowship granted to doctoral students, selected by the University), University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2008 Honorable Mention, Outstanding Graduate Assistant Research Award, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- 2008 Top Four Paper, Interpersonal Division of the Central States Communication Association
- 2007 Participant, Graduate Student Seminar "Intergroup Communication: Its Ubiquity and Dynamics" (Annual Wayne State Doctoral Seminar, led by Dr. Howard Giles)
- 2007 Top Four Paper, Family Division of the National Communication Association (w/ A. Thorson, J. Koenig Kellas, and A. Trees), Chicago, Illinois
- 2007 Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division of the National Communication Association (w/ M. Myers, M. Brann), Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2006 Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division of the Central States Communication Association (w/ S. Myers & M. Brann), Indianapolis, Indiana
- 2005 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Othmer Fellow (top fellowship granted by the University to incoming graduate students, selected by the Communication Studies Department)
- 2005 Top Student Paper, Health Communication Division of the Eastern States Communication Association (w/ M. Booth-Butterfield), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2005 Top Three Paper, Interpersonal Division of the Eastern States Communication Association (w/ S. Myers), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

### **Teaching**

- 2008 Outstanding Instructor, University of Nebraska by the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority
- 2005 Department Selection, International Communication Association's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, West Virginia University

## **Research**

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### **Research Interests**

- Family Socialization
  - Communicating gender roles and identity
  - Communicating generativity
  - Communicating hurt
- Intergroup Communication
  - Shared Family Identity

- Common Ingroup Identity Model
- Intergroup Contact
- Family Relationships
  - Intergenerational
    - in-law relationships
    - mother/daughter
    - grandparent/grandchild
  - Siblings
  - Parents/Married Couples

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Invited Book Chapters

\*Indicates co-author's graduate student status while completing work on the study.

Soliz, J., & Rittenour, C. E. (forthcoming). Generativity in the family: Grandparent-grandchild relationships and the intergenerational transmission of values and worldviews. In V. Waldron & D. Kelley (Eds), *Developing good relationships: Moral communication across the lifespan*. New York: Peter Lang. [Includes original data and analysis]

Rittenour, C. E., Koenig Kellas, J. (2014). Making sense of hurtful mother-in-law messages: Applying attribution theory to the in-law triad. *Communication Quarterly*, in press.

Colaner, C. W. & Rittenour, C. E. (2014). "Feminism begins at home": The influence of mother gender socialization on daughter career and motherhood aspirations as channeled through daughter feminist identification. *Communication Quarterly*, in press.

Mikucki-Enyart, S., Caughlin, J., & Rittenour, C. E. (2014). Content and relational implications of children-in-law's relational uncertainty within the in-law dyad during the transition to extended family. *Communication Quarterly*, in press.

Rittenour, C. E., Colaner, C. W., & \*Odenweller, K. G. (2014). Mothers' identities and gender socialization of daughters. *Southern Communication Journal*, 79, 215-234.

Thorson, A. R., Rittenour, C. E., Koenig Kellas, J., & Trees, A. R. (2013). Quality interactions and family storytelling. *Communication Reports*, 26, 88-100.

\*LaBelle, S., Booth-Butterfield, M., & Rittenour, C. E. (2013). Attitudes toward profoundly hearing impaired and deaf individuals: Links with intergroup anxiety, social dominance orientation, and contact. *Western Journal of Communication*, 77, 489-506.

\*Odenweller, K., Rittenour, C. E., Brann, M., & Myers, S. (2013) Father-son family communication patterns and gender ideologies: A modeling and compensation analysis. *Journal of Family Communication*, 13, 340-357.

Harwood, J., Rittenour, C. E., & Lin, M.-C. (2013). Family communication in later life. In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Family Communication* (pp. 112-126). New York, New York: Routledge.

Rittenour, C. E., & Colaner, C. W. (2012). Finding female fulfillment: Intersecting role-based and morality-based identities of motherhood, feminism, and generativity as predictors of women's self satisfaction and life satisfaction. *Sex Roles*, 67, 351-362.

Soliz, J., & Rittenour, C. E. (2012). Family as an intergroup arena. In H. Giles (Ed.), *The Handbook of Intergroup Communication* (pp. 331-342). Thousand Oaks, CA: Routledge.

- Rittenour, C. E. (2012). Daughter-in-law standards for mother-in-law communication: Associations with daughter-in-law perceptions of relational satisfaction and shared family identity. *Journal of Family Communication*, 12, 93-110.
- Myers, S. A., & Rittenour, C. E. (2011/2012). Demographic and relational predictors of adult siblings' use of relational maintenance behaviors. *Journal of Communication, Speech, and Theatre Association of North Dakota*, 24, 1-17.
- Myers, S. A. & Rittenour, C. E. (2010). Aggression in the K-12 Classroom. In T. Avtgis & A. Rancer (Eds.). *Arguments, Aggression, and Conflict: New Directions in Theory and Research* (pp. 139- 158). Thousand Oaks, CA: Routledge.
- Rittenour, C. E., & Booth-Butterfield, M. (2010). College students' sexual health: Investigating the role of peer communication. In G. L. Kreps (Ed.) *Health Communication*, Volume 1 (pp. 215-224). Thousand Oaks: Sage. [Reprint of 2006 publication in *Communication Quarterly*.]
- Soliz, J., Thorson, A. R., & Rittenour, C. E. (2009). Communicative predictors of relational satisfaction, shared family identity, and ethnic group salience in multiethnic families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 71, 819-832.
- Rittenour, C. E., & Soliz, J. (2009). Communicative and relational dimensions of shared family identity and relational intentions in mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationships: Developing a conceptual model for mother-in-law/daughter-in-law research. *Western Journal of Communication*, 73, 67-90.
- Myers, S. M, Brann, M., & Rittenour, C. E. (2008). Interpersonal communication motives as a predictor of early and middle adulthood siblings' use of relational maintenance behaviors. *Communication Research Reports*, 25, 1-13.
- Rittenour, C. E., & Martin, M. M. (2008). Convergent validity of the communication-based emotional support scale. *Communication Studies*, 59, 235-241.
- Brann, M., Rittenour, C. E., & Myers, S. A. (2007). Adult children's forgiveness of parents' betrayals. *Communication Research Reports*, 24, 353-360.
- Rittenour, C. E., Myers, S. A., & Brann, M. (2007). Commitment and emotional closeness in the sibling relationship, *Southern Communication Journal*, 72, 169-183.
- Rittenour, C. E., & Booth-Butterfield, M. (2006). College students' sexual health: Investigating the role of peer communication. *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*, 7, 57-65.
- Myers, S. A., Schrodt, P., & Rittenour, C. E. (2006). The perceived impact of hurtful messages on adult children's academic performance. In L. Turner & R. West (Eds.), *Family communication: A reference of theory and research* (pp. 425-445). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. [Includes original data and analysis]
- Rittenour, C. E., & Myers, S. A. (2005). The impact of adolescents' perceptions of interparental conflict on adolescents' aggressive communication traits. *Iowa Journal of Communication*, 37, 123-138.

### **Conference Presentations of Competitive Papers**

\*Indicates co-author's graduate student status while completing work on the study.

- \*Lancaster, A. L., & Rittenour, C. E. (2014, April). Parishioners and non-parishioners perceptions of priests: Homilies informed by an intergroup perspective are linked to more positive perceptions. *Paper presented at*

*the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, Rhode Island. [Top Paper, Applied Communication Division]*

- Rittenour, C. E., & Willer, E. K. (2013, November). Mothers' memorable messages about popularity: Social identity and social dominance approaches to mothers' socialization of adult children's popularity orientations. *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association in Washington, D. C.*
- Mikucki-Enyart, S., Caughlin, J., & Rittenour, C. E. (2013, May) The content and relational implications of children-in-law's relational uncertainty within the in-law dyad during the transition to extended family. *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association in London, England.*
- Rittenour, C. E., & Colaner, C. (2013, April) Communicating gendered values: Women's motherhood, feminism, and generativity identities as predictors of gender socialization of daughters. *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Kansas City, Missouri.*
- Fowler, C., & Rittenour, C. E. (2012, November) Children's positive/negative interactions with parents-in-law: In group status as a mediator of in-law interactions and children-in-law's perceptions of marital and in-law satisfaction. *Paper presented Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association in Orlando, Florida. [Top Two Paper, Communication and Aging Division]*
- Mikucki-Enyart, S., & Rittenour, C. E. (2012, November) "Does my future-mother-in-law really like me or just tolerate me?": Children-in-law's relational uncertainty during the transition to extended family. *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association in Orlando, Florida.*
- \*Nuru, A., Soliz, J., & Rittenour, C. E. (2012, November) Constructing, expressing, and reflecting ethnic identity: Perspectives from multiethnic individuals. *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association in Orlando, Florida.*
- \*Odenweller, K. G., Westerman, D., & Rittenour, C. E. (2012, November) Family communication patterns and online relational maintenance behaviors: Investigating college students' relationships with their parents. *Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association in Orlando, Florida.*
- Rittenour, C. E., & Koenig-Kellas (2012, March) The role of attributions, perceptions of agreement, and spousal communication in daughter-in-law satisfaction with the in-law triad. *Paper presented the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Cleveland, Ohio.*
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. & Rittenour, C. E. (2011, November) The transition to extended family: Examining relational uncertainty in the parent-adult child dyad. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.*
- Colaner, C. & Rittenour, C. E. (2011, November). Feminism begins at home: The influence of mother gender socialization on daughter's motherhood and career aspirations as channeled through daughter feminist identification. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.*
- \*Rudick, C. K., Myers, S. A., Dillow, M. E., and Rittenour, C. E. (2011, April) Students' perceptions of classroom justice and their use of politeness strategies. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*
- Rittenour, C. E., Colaner, C. W. (2011, February) Women's intersecting identities, female fulfillment, and gender guidance: The links between women's mothering, feminist, and generativity identities, mother's wellbeing,

and gender socialization of daughters. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western States Communication Association in Monterey, California.*

- Rittenour, C. E., Fowler, C., & Soliz, J. (2010, November) Grandchildren's perceptions of intergenerational communication: An investigation of sex differences and similarities in grandparent-grandchild dyads. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.* [Top Four Paper, Communication and Aging Division]
- Rittenour, C. E. (2010, April). How could she ever measure up? Daughter-in-law standards for mother-in-law communication. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Baltimore, Maryland.*
- Myers, S. A., & Rittenour, C. E. (2010, April) Demographic and relational predictors of adult siblings' use of relational maintenance behaviors. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.* [Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division]
- Rittenour, C. E. (2009, November) Communication within and surrounding mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationships: Implications for relational outcomes and future family functioning. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, San Diego, California.*
- Soliz, J., Rittenour, C. E., & Thorson, A. R. (2008, April) Communicative predictors of relational satisfaction, shared family identity, and ethnic group salience in multiethnic families. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, Wisconsin.* [Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division]
- Rittenour, C. E., & Soliz, J. (2007, November) Communicative predictors of shared family identity, future contact, and caregiving intentions in mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationships. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois.*
- Thorson, A., Rittenour, C. E., Koenig Kellas, J., & Trees, A. (2007, November) Utilizing multilevel modeling: Illuminating family communication intricacies. *Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.* [Top Four Paper, Family Division]
- Brann, M., Myers, S.A., & Rittenour, C. E. (2007, November). Caring for the one who cared for you: Parent-child discussions about caregiving. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois.*
- Myers, M., Brann, M., & Rittenour, C. E. (2007, April) Interpersonal communication motives as a predictor of middle adulthood siblings' use of relational maintenance behaviors. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota.* [Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division]
- Brann, M., Rittenour, C. E., & Myers, S. A. (2006, November). Adult children's forgiveness of parents' betrayals: Progressing towards greater commitment, trust, and relational satisfaction. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, San Antonio, Texas.*
- Rittenour, C. E. (2006, November). Relational dialectics in the parent- and child-in-law relationship. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Indianapolis, Indiana.*
- Rittenour, C. E. (2006, October). American mothers' support and opposition of the War in Iraq. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender, St. Louis, Missouri.*

- Rittenour, C. E., & Brann, M. (2006, April). Ageism toward youth: A closer look at older adults' perceptions of young people. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.*
- Rittenour, C. E., Myers, S. A., & Brann, M. (2006, April). Commitment and emotional closeness in the sibling relationship. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.* [Top Four Paper. Interpersonal and Small Group Division]
- Myers, S. A., Schrodt, P., & Rittenour, C. E. (2005, November). The impact of parents' use of hurtful messages on adult children's self-esteem and educational motivation. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Boston, Massachusetts.*
- Rittenour, C. E., & Brann, M. (2005, November). Storytelling: Love and relationships from older adults' perspectives. *Paper presented at the 2005 National Communication Association Convention, Boston, Massachusetts.*
- Myers, S. A., Rocca, K. A., Dunleavy, K. N., Hanselman, M., Humphrey, L. E., Ike, I., Kubic, K. N., Rittenour, C. E., & Regan, K. A. (2005, April). The relationship between college student participation and perceived instructor communicator style. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*
- Rittenour, C. E., & Booth-Butterfield, M. (2005, April). College students' sexual health: Investigating the role of peer communication. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* [Top Student Paper, Health Communication Interest Group]
- Rittenour, C. E., & Martin, M. M. (2005, April). The Emotional Support Scale: A validity study. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*
- Rittenour, C. E., & Myers, S. A. (2005, April). Adolescents' perceptions of interparental conflict and the impact on their aggressive communication traits. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* [Top Three Paper, Interpersonal Interest Group]
- Myers, S. A., Brewster, D. W., & Kunkle, C. E. (2004, April). Applying face-negotiation theory to small group communication. *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Cleveland, Ohio.* [Maiden name is Kunkle.]

### **Research Panel Presentation at Professional Conference**

*\*Indicates co-author's graduate student status while completing work on the study.*

- Rittenour, C. E., \*Berkebile, T., \*Cupp, J. G., \*Decierdo, A., \*de la Garza, A., \*Fletcher, H., \*La Belle, S., \*Lybarger, J., \*Odenweller, K., \*Rice, Z., \*Saint Aubin, M., & \*Thoma, J. (2011, April). Outsiders in their own homes: The excluded, the ostracized, and other black sheep of the family. *Panel presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

### **Invited Presentations**

*In-laws or Outlaws? Factors Associated with the Success or Failure of Mother-in-law/Daughter-in-law Relationships* as part of the University of San Francisco's Committee on Children and Youth Speaker Series (Fall 2010)

*Storytelling about love and relationships shared by older adults.* Presented to the UNL Communication Studies colloquium (Fall 2006).

## **Teaching and Advising**

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**Teaching Interests:** family communication, intergroup communication, communication and aging

### **Graduate Courses at West Virginia University**

#### Family Communication

- Developed and instructed course
- Awaiting Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee approval

#### Intergroup Communication

- Developed and instructed course
- Awaiting Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee approval

Communication and Older Adulthood (taught as special topics)

### **Undergraduate Courses at West Virginia University**

#### Communication Cornerstones

- Developed course for the department, also instructed
- This is a pre-requisite for Communication Studies majors' declaration of area of emphasis.

#### Communication and Aging

- Designed new course materials, also instructed
- Under my direction, this is an elective course for the Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology through the WVU School of Social Work.

#### Family Communication

- Designed new course materials, also instructed

#### Communication Theory

- Instructed

#### Independent Studies

- Brittany Swope; Research Project on Sibling Communication, Presented at Eastern Communication Association Conference (Spring 2012)

### **Undergraduate Courses, Instructed at University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Business and Professional Communication (instructor; co-administrator)

Interpersonal Communication (instructor)

Research Methods (instructor)

Small Group Problem Solving (instructor)

### **Invited Lectures**

“Communication Accommodation Theory”

- Graduate Course in Communication Theory, WVU Communication Studies Department
- Spring 2013, Spring 2014

“Family Violence and Abuse”

- Undergraduate Course in Family Communication, UNL Communication Studies Department
- Fall 2011, Spring 2012

“Nonverbal Communication”

- Produced online lecture
- *Fundamentals of Human Communication - Advanced Scholars Program for high school honors students*
- Fall 2008

**Advising**

Ph.D. Advisees – In Progress

Kelly Lynn Geier Odenweller (anticipated graduation: May 2015)  
Rita Daniels (anticipated graduation: August 2016)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees – Completed

Communication Studies:

Michael Sollitto (August 2014)  
Hailey Gillen (August 2014)  
Lori Vela (August 2013)  
Colleen Malachowski (May 2012)

Psychology:

James Henry (May 2013)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees – In Progress

Psychology:

Ria Travers  
Elizabeth Price  
Elizabeth Babskie

M.A. Advisee – Completed

Kelly Lynn Geier Odenweller (August 2011)

M.A. Thesis Committee - Completed

Charles K. Rudick (August 2010)

M.A. Comprehensive Exam Committee - Completed

Class of 2011  
Class of 2012  
Class of 2013  
Class of 2014

**Service**

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**Service to Discipline**

Editorial Review Board

2014 – Present *Journal of Family Communication*  
2014 – Present *Southern Communication Journal*, Associate Editorial Board  
2012 *Iowa Journal of Communication's* Special Issue on Communication and the Family  
2013 *Journal of Family Communication's* Special Issue on Family Communication Patterns  
2010 *Journal of Family Communication's* Special Issue on Culture

Guest Reviewer

*Communication Monographs*  
*Communication Research Reports*

*Communication Studies*  
*Health Communication*  
*International Journal of Aging and Human Development*  
*Journal of Family Communication,*  
*Journal of Language and Social Psychology*  
*Psychology of Popular Media*  
*Social Behavior and Personality*

Vice-Chair and Program Planner, Communication and Aging Division of National Communication Association (2014 Conference/Present)

Secretary, Communication and Aging Division of National Communication Association (Spring 2006-Spring 2008)

Thesis Award Committee Chair, Communication and Aging Division of NCA (2012)

#### Conference Reviewer

Intergroup Communication Division of the International Communication Association (2013)  
Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012)  
Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association (2010)  
Small Group and Interpersonal Division of the Central States Communication Association (2009)  
Interpersonal Communication Division of the Eastern Communication Association (2011)  
Undergraduate Student Caucus of the Eastern Communication Association (2012)

Member, Tellers' Committee for the Central States Communication Association (2004-2005)

#### **Service to Department**

*Chair*, Faculty Mentoring Committee (Spring 2012)  
*Chair*, Interdisciplinary Committee, Departmental "2020 Strategic Plan" (Spring 2013)

*Member*, Doctoral Studies Committee (2011-Present)  
*Member*, Faculty Evaluation Committee (2012)  
*Member*, Hiring Committee (2012)  
*Member*, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2009-2013)  
*Member*, Graduate Committee (2012-2013)

#### **Service to College**

*Coordinator*, Communication Studies and Psychology Graduate Student Research Colloquium (Spring 2014)  
*Member*, Hiring Committee for Psychology Department (2013)

#### **Service to Community**

Presenter, West Virginia University's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute on Aging, "Building Harmonious Grandparent/Parent Ties" (2013)

Guest Speaker, Cumberland County Chapter of the PA Association of School Retirees  
"Better than Botox: Communicating to 'Feel Young'" (2013)

Grant Assistant, WV Healthy Start's HAPI Project (Funded through a University Student Learning Grant, 2005).  
- Installed a communication component

- This project was an outreach program for pregnant women at high-risk for intimate partner violence.

### **Memberships in Professional Organizations**

International Communication Association

National Communication Association

Eastern Communication Association

Organization for Research on Women and Communication