

Sara Pitts

Department of Communication Studies
 West Virginia University
 108 Armstrong Hall
 P.O. Box 6293
 Morgantown, WV 26505
 (304) 293-3905
 sep0014@mix.wvu.edu

Education:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Ph.D. West Virginia University
 Department of Communication Studies
 Emphasis in Instructional Communication
 Advisor: Scott A. Myers</p> | <p>Morgantown, WV
 Anticipated graduation 2020</p> |
| <p>M.A.E. Western Kentucky University
 Department of Counseling and Student Affairs</p> | <p>Bowling Green, KY 2012</p> |
| <p>B.A. Western Kentucky University
 Major in Corporate and Organizational Communication</p> | <p>Bowling Green, KY 2009</p> |

Research Interests:

Out-of-Class Communication; Advisor/Advisee relationships; College Student Development; Academic Persistence

Teaching Experience:

West Virginia University

Comm 100 – Principles of Human Communication - Introduction to the human communication process with emphasis on the principles, variables, and social contexts of communication.
 Semester Taught: Summer 2019

Comm 102 – Human Communication in the Interpersonal Context - Introduction to interpersonal communication with emphasis upon application of one to one communication in a variety of social contexts.
 Semester Taught: Summer 2019

Comm 103 – Presentational Speaking – A laboratory designed to reinforce behavioral speaking skills based on the theory taught in COMM 104.
 Semester Taught: Spring 2017

Comm 105 – Introduction to Mass Media - Critical examination of mass media with special emphasis on ways in which social, economic, and psychological factors influence the structure, functions, and effects of the media.
 Semester Taught: Fall 2019

Comm 112 – Small Group Communication – Introduction to small-group communication with emphasis on developing understanding of the small group communication process and learning how to communicate effectively when working in a small group.

Semesters Taught: Fall 2016, Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018

Comm 122 – Human Communication in Contemporary Society - This course addresses various social issues faced by young adults in our society and how communication is often part of the problem and how it can be used to solve these problems.

Semester Taught: Fall 2019

Comm 212 – Gender and Communication – The similarities and differences of communication variables for males and females. Theoretical implications in the study of the gender variable with practical applications in different contexts.

Semesters Taught: Summer 2017; Fall 2018

Comm 308 – Nonverbal Communication - This course examines the vital role that communication plays in the American health care system and introduces concepts and approaches needed to effectively and ethically communicate about health in a pluralistic and multicultural society.

Semester Taught: Summer 2019

Comm 322 – Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication – This course deals with transgressions and violations of relational rules as well as their communicative and behavioral antecedents and consequences in personal relationships.

Semester Taught: Summer 2018

Comm 306 – Organizational Communication - Instruction on the role that culture plays in organizations with adaption of one's communication to be successful; understand appropriate and effective communication in the superior-subordinate relationship; evaluate organizational problems with strong communication strategies and the impact of organizational structure on communication.

Semester Taught: Fall 2019

Comm 316 – Intercultural Communication – Examines similarities and differences between cultures with regard to norms, values, and practices in verbal and nonverbal communication. Emphasis on communication in Latin America, Asian, African, and Middle Eastern cultures.

Semester Taught: Summer 2018

Western Kentucky University

CHHS 175 – University Experience for College of Health and Human Services Majors – Topics include study skills, critical thinking skills, library education, campus resources, and personal development. Special emphasis on careers and degree programs related to the fields of health and human services.

Semesters Taught: Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Professional Experience:

Visiting Instructor

August 2019 – present
Department of Communication Studies
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2016 – July 2019
Department of Communication Studies
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Undergraduate Advisor

June 2017 – July 2019
Department of Communication Studies
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Academic Advisor & Living Learning Community Coordinator

January 2011 – August 2016
Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), College of Health and Human Services (CHHS),
Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

Publications:

Myers, S. A., Baker, J. P., Barone, H., Kromka, S. M., & Pitts, S. (2018). Using rhetorical/relational goal theory to examine college students' impressions of their instructors. *Communication Research Reports*, 35, 131-140. doi:10.1080.08824096.2017.1406848

Myers, S. A., Kennedy-Lightsey, C. D., Anzur, C. K., Baker, J. P., Donato, M. E., & Pitts, S. (2018). Verbal aggressiveness as bullying in the emerging adult sibling relationship. In R. West & C. S. Beck (Eds.), *The routledge handbook of communication and bullying* (pp. 198-209). New York, NY: Routledge.

Rittenour, C., Kromka, S., Pitts, S., Thorwart, M., Vickers, J., & Whyte, K. (2018). Communication surrounding estrangement: Stereotypes, attitudes, and (non)accommodation. *Behavioral Sciences*, 8, 96. doi:10.3390/bs8100096

Competitive Conference Presentations:

Pitts, S. & Thorwart, M. (2019). *Relational dialectics narratives*. G.I.F.T. accepted at the meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Baltimore, MD.

Pitts, S. (2019, April). *Humor styles related to topic avoidance in close interpersonal relationships*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Eastern Communication Association Conference, Providence, RI.

Rittenour, C. E., & Pitts, S. (2018, November). *Communication surrounding spouses of alcoholics*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association

Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

Pitts, S. (2018, November). *Advisor perceptions of students based on student e-mail behavior*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

Baker, J. P., Clark-Gordon, C. V., Kromka, S. M., Nicholson, A. L., Pitts, S., Wasserman, J. A., & West, M. S. (2018, April). *How students learn: Theoretical perspectives from educational psychology to incorporate into instructional communication research*. Panel presented at the meeting of Eastern Communication Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Myers, S. A., Baker, J. P., Barone, H., Kromka, S. M., & Pitts, S. (2018, April). *Using rhetorical/relational goal theory to examine college students' impressions of their instructors*. Paper presented at the meeting of Central States Communication Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

Pitts, S., & Myers, S. A. (2018, April). *Using the investment model to explore college students out-of-class communication with instructors*. **Top 3 Paper: Instruction Communication Interest Group**, Paper presented at the meeting of Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Rittenour, C. E., Kromka, S. M., Pitts, S., Thorwart, M. A., Vickers, J., & Whyte, K. V. (April 2018). *Stereotypes of Estranged Adult Children*. Paper presented at the meeting of Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Myers, S. A., Baker, J. P., Kromka, S. M., & Pitts, S. (2017, November). *Instructor-student perceptions of effective teaching: An exploration of effective teaching behaviors*. Paper presented at the meeting of National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX.

Pitts, S., & Inman, Z. (2016). *Learning in & out of the classroom: Building a partnership across campus*. Student Success Summit, Bowling Green, KY.

Pitts, S. (2014). *Mixing an old classic with a new favorite: Twitter photo scavenger hunt for freshman experience*. Poster presented at National Academic Advising Association Regional Conference, Morgantown, WV.

Pitts, S. (2014). *Mixing an old classic with a new favorite: Twitter photo scavenger hunt for freshman experience*. Poster presented at National Symposium of Student Retention, Louisville, KY.

Honors and Awards:

Eberly College Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Department of Communication Studies (2019). West Virginia University.

Renee Kisner Peer Collegiality Award. (2019). West Virginia University, Department of Communication Studies.

Professional Service:

Discipline Service:

2018 – 2019 – Secretary, Interpersonal Communication Division, Eastern Communication Association

2018 – Reviewer for IDD division submissions for ECA

2018 – Reviewer for Undergraduate Scholars Conference for ECA

University Service:

2014 – Presenter at the WKU Greek Leadership Symposium topic: “Time Management: Are you managing your time or is it managing you?”

2013 – 2014 – Member of the planning committee for the Student Success Summit held January 2014 and January 2015

Departmental Service:

2019 – 2020 – Faculty advisor for the department student organization of Undergraduate Communication Association

2019 – Presenter of How to Teach the First Day of Class for the departmental orientation for incoming graduate students

2016 – 2017 – Presenter at First Year Academy, a Communication Studies departmental orientation for incoming freshman majors

Professional Affiliations:

National Communication Association (NCA)

Eastern Communication Association (ECA)

National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)

Kentucky Academic Advising Association (KACADA)