

LAUREN E. (CLYNE) FELLERS

Department of Communication Studies
West Virginia University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication Studies
West Virginia University

August 2020-August 2023
Morgantown, WV

Emphases in Interpersonal Communication, Instructional Communication, and
Quantitative Research Methods

Methodology: Quantitative

Dissertation: Testing the Theory of Resilience and Relational Load in the Context of
Empty Nesters
(Advisor: Dr. Megan R. Dillow)

Committee Members: Dr. Alan K. Goodboy, Dr. Christine E. Kunkle, and Dr. Andrew
M. Ledbetter

M.S., Communication Studies
Texas Christian University

August 2018-May 2020
Fort Worth, TX

Thesis: Entropy as an Explanatory Mechanism for Relational Maintenance Behaviors
(Advisor: Dr. Andrew M. Ledbetter)

Committee Members: Dr. Kristen Carr and Dr. Paul Schrodtt

B.A., Organizational Communication
Bethel University

August 2015-January 2018
St. Paul, MN

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Online Adjunct Instructor (Instructor of Record)
West Virginia University
Department of Communication Studies

August 2023-present
Morgantown, WV

COMM 303: Business and Professional Communication (Online Asynchronous: Fall 2024, Fall 2025): The purpose of this course was to help students create and deliver messages across oral, written, and mediated channels for the business world. To this end, students aimed to organize clear messages using well-researched, credible content via constructing preparation outlines, speaking outlines, and quality visual aids for informative presentations related to their field or industry. Students also learned about listening, negotiation, diversity, interpersonal communication, teamwork, technology, leadership, conflict management, and job interviews (via completing a mock interview).

Finally, students practiced the art of communicating constructive, objective, and honest feedback in the workplace as they analyzed and critiqued their peers' delivery skills after watching peers' informative presentations.

COMM 112: Fundamentals of Group Communication (Online Asynchronous: Fall 2023, Fall 2025): The purpose of this introductory course was to help students understand the socialization processes that precede both functional and dysfunctional small group communication. Active-learning activities and application assignments were designed and embedded into online learning modules to assist students in applying course concepts in their own small group environments.

COMM 105: Fundamentals of Mediated Communication (Online Asynchronous: Spring 2024, Spring 2025): The purpose of this introductory course was to familiarize students with theories, models, and concepts related to mass media. Students were encouraged to reflect on how their own media consumption impacts their communication and worldview, as well as demonstrate media literacy skills through critically analyzing mass media messages.

COMM 104: Fundamentals of Public Communication (Online Asynchronous: Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025): The purpose of this introductory course was to expose students to principles related to public communication. Specifically, course goals included identifying theories, principles, and concepts associated with public speaking contexts, as well as creating and critically analyzing persuasive messages.

COMM 316: Intercultural Communication (Online Asynchronous: Spring 2025): The purpose of this course was to help students communicate more competently within intercultural interactions. To this end, students regularly reflected on takeaways from the textbook regarding individual and cultural similarities and differences. In doing so, students cultivated an appreciation for diverse perspectives and an understanding for the ways in which their own cultural standpoints influence their communication. A big emphasis was on prompting students to go out and “do” the work of intercultural communication in their communities via completing frequent “Apply it!” activities.

COMM 335: Social Media in the Workplace (Online Asynchronous: Spring 2025): The purpose of this upper-level, strategic communication course was to provide students with a scaffolded, step-by-step learning process regarding how to develop a well-researched social media strategy for a client. After learning about paid, earned, shared, and owned media opportunities available to them, students created and curated social media content for a small business of their choosing on a variety of platforms, taking into consideration the goal of the campaign (as derived from a SWOT analysis), as well as their research on the client, consumers, competitors, and critics.

Course Administrator
West Virginia University
Department of Communication Studies

January 2021-December 2022
Morgantown, WV

COMM 105: Fundamentals of Mediated Communication (Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022): This course was designed to provide students ample low-risk opportunities to practice applying mass media theories, models, and concepts to media artifacts through means of think-pair-share activities during class and application assignments after class. I adapted this course to be taught in three different modalities (online synchronously, online asynchronously, in-person) during my time as course administrator.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)
West Virginia University
Department of Communication Studies

August 2020-July 2023
Morgantown, WV

COMM 302: Interpersonal Communication (In-Person: Fall 2022): The purpose of this upper-level course was to encourage students to analyze and explain theories, models, and concepts related to how humans establish, maintain, repair, and terminate close relationships. Over the course of the semester, the coursework was scaffolded in that students were asked to complete steps (e.g., research workshop, topic approval, peer review workshop) towards the completion of larger course projects (e.g., literature review, pop culture artifact paper/presentation). Daily work and exams featuring short-answer questions provided students with ample opportunities to practice articulating their interpersonal communication knowledge bases as these items assessed the students' recall and comprehension of the lecture and reading material. I taught this course in-person.

COMM 308: Nonverbal Communication (Online Asynchronous: Summer 2022, In-Person: Spring 2023): The purpose of this upper-level course was to prompt students to analyze the meanings of a variety of nonverbal communication behaviors within interpersonal and organizational contexts. Throughout the course, as students learned to differentiate between nine nonverbal communication codes, they were asked to apply their knowledge about appropriate and inappropriate uses of nonverbal communication behaviors to improve their day-to-day interactions. I taught this course online asynchronously as well as in-person.

COMM 122: Fundamentals of Communication in Contemporary Society (In-Person: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022): The purpose of this introductory course was to equip students with typologies and theories useful in identifying, describing, and resolving communication challenges in various relational contexts. Each week, students grappled with issues inherent within a unique subset of communication including the following: computer-mediated, conflict, family, gender, group, health, intercultural, interpersonal, media, nonverbal, organizational, and political communication. I taught this course in-person.

COMM 105: Fundamentals of Mediated Communication (Online Synchronous: Spring 2021, Online Asynchronous: Summer 2021, Summer 2023, In-Person: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023): The purpose of this introductory course was to familiarize students with theories, models, and concepts related to mass media. Students were encouraged to reflect on how their own media consumption impacts their

communication and worldview, as well as demonstrate media literacy skills through critically analyzing mass media messages. I taught this course in three different modalities: (a) online synchronously, (b) online asynchronously, and (c) in-person.

COMM 104: Fundamentals of Public Communication (Hybrid-Flex: Fall 2020, Online Asynchronous: Summer 2022): The purpose of this introductory course was to expose students to principles related to public communication. Specifically, course goals included identifying theories, principles, and concepts associated with public contexts, as well as creating and critically analyzing persuasive messages. I recorded asynchronous, online lectures for a portion of the class to watch on the day that they did not attend synchronous, in-person lectures because this course adopted a Hybrid-Flex structure in Fall 2020. More recently, I taught this course online asynchronously.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Assisted Primary Instructor) August 2020-December 2020
West Virginia University Morgantown, WVU
Department of Communication Studies

COMM 122: *Human Communication in Contemporary Society* (Fall 2020)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Lab Instructor) August 2018-May 2020
Texas Christian University Fort Worth, TX
Department of Communication Studies

COMM 10123: Communicating Effectively in Your Profession/Communicating Effectively in Your Community (In-Person: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Online Synchronous: Spring 2020): The purpose of this introductory course was to give students the opportunity to practice and master the following public speaking skills: organization, content, and delivery. Specifically, course goals included constructing messages by supporting claims, organizing ideas, and adapting to the audience, as well as delivering verbal, nonverbal, and visual messages effectively. I incorporated active learning strategies when facilitating the lab because this course adopted a flipped classroom structure.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Assisted Primary Instructor) August 2018-May 2020
Texas Christian University Fort Worth, TX
Department of Communication Studies

COMM 20223: *Communication Theory* (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Assisted Primary Instructor) August 2015-December 2017
Bethel University St. Paul, MN
Department of Communication Studies

COMM 248: *Organizational Communication* (Fall 2016)

COMM 448: *Abusive Relationships and Christian Responsibility* (Summer 2016)

COMM 462: *Conflict Communication* (Spring 2016)

COMM 210: *Perspectives on Human Communication* (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Relational Maintenance Behaviors, Relational Entropy, Religious Dis/Similarities, Sanctification Theory, Theory of Resilience and Relational Load, Theory of Relational Entropy

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Fellers, L. E., & Ledbetter, A. M. (2024). Conceptualizing relational entropy: Exploring the causes, experiences, and remedies of friendship decay. *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*, 25(1), 42–49. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17459435.2022.2158365>

Fellers, L. E., Kunkle, C. E., Schrodtt, P., & Follmer, D. J. (2023). Sanctification, relationship maintenance behaviors, and closeness within parent-adult child relationships. *Journal of Family Communication*, 23(2), 107–122. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2023.2189254>

Fellers, L. E., & Ledbetter, A. M. (2023). Measuring relational entropy: Relational maintenance behavior mediates the association between religious similarity and entropy in friendships. *Southern Communication Journal*, 88(5), 441–453. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1041794X.2023.2175234>

Ledbetter, A. M., & Fellers, L. E. (2022). Relational maintenance and relational entropy predict each other over a year: A test of the theory of relational entropy in friendships during COVID-19. *Communication Studies*, 73(5–6), 591–606. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10510974.2022.2145327>

Clyne, L., Fellers, M., & Richards, A. (2020). Metacognitive inoculation reduces the persuasiveness of sarcastic attack messages. *Communication Reports*, 33(2), 68–81. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08934215.2020.1755876>

Pedagogical Publications

Fellers, L. E. (2026). “I know how to cite sources in APA, MLA, and even Chicago in my papers, but how do I cite sources aloud?: An Oral Citation Activity for Public Speaking Courses.” In B. N. Frisby and R. Kaufmann (Eds.), *Teaching Communication: Volume IV: Instructional Resources*. Cognella.

CONVENTION PAPERS

Fellers, L. E., & Dillow, M. R. (2023, March 30). *A test of the theory of resilience and relational load in the context of romantically involved individuals experiencing symptoms*

of anxiety [Paper presentation]. **Top Papers in Interpersonal Communication: Interpersonal Communication Interest Group**, Eastern Communication Association 114th Annual Convention, Baltimore, MA, United States.

Fellers, L. E., Rittenour, C. E., Schrod, P., & Follmer, D. J. (2022, November 19). *Sanctification, relational maintenance, and closeness within parent-adult child relationships* [Paper presentation]. Family Communication Division, National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Ledbetter, A. M., & **Fellers, L. E.** (2022, November 18). *Relational maintenance and relational entropy predict each other over time: A test of the theory of relational entropy in friendships during COVID-19* [Paper presentation]. Interpersonal Communication Division, National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Fellers, L. E., & Ledbetter, A. M. (2021, November 18). *Conceptualizing relational entropy: Relational maintenance behavior mediates the association between religious similarity and entropy in friendships* [Paper presentation]. Interpersonal Communication Division, National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, United States.

Fellers, L. E. (2021, March 25). *Understanding relational maintenance during engagement from the bride's perspective* [Paper presentation]. Interpersonal Communication Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association 112th Annual Convention, Cambridge, MA, United States.

Clyne, L., Fellers, M., & Richards, A. (2019, November 15). *Forewarned for funny: Metacognitive inoculation reduces sarcasm's persuasiveness* [Paper presentation]. Communication and Social Cognition Division, National Communication Association 105th Annual Convention, Baltimore, MA, United States.

Clyne, L. (2018, April 7). *Overinvestment in romantic relationships* [Poster presentation]. Undergraduate Honors Research Conference, Central States Communication Association Annual Convention, Milwaukee, WI, United States.

OTHER CONVENTION ACTIVITY

Fellers, L. E. (2023, March 31). *"Make it clear. Make it concise. Make it parallel.": Thesis statements G.I.F.T.S. activity for public speaking courses*. Great Ideas For Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.) Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association 114th Annual Convention, Baltimore, MA, United States.

Fellers, L. E., & Fellers, M. (2023, March 31). *Practicing delivery skills one "question of the day" at a time: Delivery skills G.I.F.T.S. activity for public speaking courses*. Great Ideas For Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.) Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association 114th Annual Convention, Baltimore, MA, United States.

Fellers, L. E. (2022, November 19). *Families of origin as our first teachers: An activity for family communication classes*. Great Ideas For Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.) Session IV, National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Fellers, L. E. (2021, November 20). *"I know how to cite sources in APA, MLA, and even Chicago in my papers, but how do I cite sources aloud?"* Great Ideas For Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.) Session IV, National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, United States.

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

Texas Christian University

COMM 60113: *Interpersonal Communication*
COMM 60153: *Communication and Physiology*
COMM 60153: *Coping and Resiliency*
COMM 60153: *Organizational Power and Incivility*
COMM 60153: *Qualitative Methods*
COMM 60173: *Communication Research Methods*
COMM 60183: *Communication Theory*
COMM 60193: *Advanced Research Methods in Communication*
COMM 60203: *Family Communication*
COMM 60293: *Communication and Social Cognition*
COMM 70980: *Thesis*
COMM 70990: *Thesis*

West Virginia University

COMM 601: *Instructional Communication*
COMM 602: *Interpersonal Communication*
COMM 610: *Family Communication*
COMM 700: *Survey of Human Communication Theory*
COMM 701: *Graduate Research Methods*
COMM 702: *Advanced Interpersonal Communication*
COMM 711: *Advanced Seminar in Research Methods*
COMM 712: *Communication Measurement*
COMM 719: *Advanced Instructional Communication*
COMM 722: *Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication*
COMM 790: *Teaching Practicum*
COMM 795: *Independent Study*
COMM 796: *Graduate Seminar*
EDP 613: *Statistical Methods I*
EDP 618: *Mixing Research Methodologies*
EDP 640: *Instructional Design*
EDP 711: *Multivariate Methods I*

HONORS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (2023)
Top 3 Paper, Interpersonal Communication Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association (2023)
Patricia Kearney Doctoral Student Teaching Award, WVU Department of Communication Studies (2022)
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (2021)
Graduate Assistantship, West Virginia University (2020-present)
Graduate Student of the Year, TCU Department of Communication Studies (2020)
College of Communication Travel Grant (\$500), Texas Christian University (2019)
Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$400), Texas Christian University (2019)
Graduate Assistantship, Texas Christian University (2018-2020)
Overall Top Poster, President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference (CSCA) (2018)
Generation Study Abroad Initiative Scholarship (\$610), University of Westminster (2016)
Allianz ScholarTrip Award Recipient (\$50), Allianz (2017)
Department of Communication Studies Scholarship, Bethel University (\$500) (2016)
Mill City Credit Union Scholarship (\$1000), Mill City Credit Union (2016)
Mill City Credit Union Scholarship (\$1000), Mill City Credit Union (2015)
General Mills Foundation Post-High School Scholarship (\$7,500), General Mills (2015-2017)

SERVICE

Discipline Service

Panel Chair, Interpersonal Communication, Eastern Communication Association (ECA) (2023)
Secretary, Instructional Communication, Eastern Communication Association (ECA) (2023)
Assisted Undergraduate Scholars Conference Program Planner in putting together panels, Eastern Communication Association (ECA) (2023)
Short Course Usher, National Communication Association (NCA) (2022)
(Stand-In) Representative at Nominating Committee Meeting for the Interpersonal Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association (ECA) (2022)
Short Course Usher, National Communication Association (NCA) (2021)

University Service

Judge, 5th Annual Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium (2022)
Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor, Teaching & Learning Commons GTA Orientation (2022)
Judge, 14th Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium (2022)
Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor, Teaching & Learning Commons GTA Orientation (2021)
Judge, Exploring Innovation in Appalachia: An Undergraduate Research Symposium (2021)
Invited Panelist, Graduate Student Panel, Exploring Innovation in Appalachia: An Undergraduate Research Symposium (2021)
Judge, Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol (URDC) (2021)

Departmental Service

Edited Communication Studies Course Flyers, Communication Studies Department (2023)
Created a “Best Practices in Studying for Comprehensive Exams” Handout for Graduate Students, Communication Studies Department Graduate Student Organization Professional Development Panel (2023)
Invited Research Presenter, WVU Communication Studies Research Colloquium (2023)
Committee Member, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee (2022-present)
Reception Registration Volunteer, Honors Week Awards Reception (2022)
Invited Guest Lecturer on Relational Maintenance and Love, COMM 702: *Advanced Interpersonal Communication* (2022)
Invited Guest Research Presenter (i.e., asked to model a conference-style research presentation), COMM 796: *Graduate Seminar* (2021)
Judge, TCU Speech & Debate Intercollegiate Invitational (2018; 2019)
Judge, TCU Wisdom Award for Public Speaking Excellence (2018; 2019)

Local Church Service

Baby Room Kids Church Volunteer (September 2024-current)
Elementary Room Kids Church Lead Teacher (June 2021-April 2024)
Hospitality Team Member (e.g., greeter, dishes) (August 2023-April 2024)
Small Group Meal Coordinator (September 2021-May 2023)
Elementary Room Kids Church Volunteer (February 2021-May 2021)
Small Group Leader in a Weekly Church Ministry for Middle School and High School Students (2012-2017)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

eCampus Ultra Virtual Training Session (2024): WVU Information Technology Services (3 hours)

Presenter: Shana Blackshire, West Virginia University

“Media Literacy is Lit!”: How to Teach Media Literacy in Exciting Ways So Students Apply and Own the Lessons (2022): NCA Short Course (3 hours)

Presenter: Dr. Julia K. Weiss, University of Virginia’s College at Wise

Challenging Anti-Asian Racism in White Normative Spaces (2022): WVU Honors College (1 hour)

Presenter: Matt Shin, West Virginia University

WVU Mental Health 101 (2022): Carruth Center, CARE Team, and WELLWVU Workshop (1.5 hours)

Presenter: Dr. Beth Moore, West Virginia University

Servant Teaching: Practices for Renewing Christian Higher Education (2022): Christianity and Communication Studies Network (CCSN) Webinar (1 hour)

Presenter: Dr. Quentin Schultze, Calvin University

Engaging Non-Traditionally Aged Students (2022): WVU Teaching and Learning Commons Roundtable Session (1 hour)

Moderator: Eric Lemley, West Virginia University

Faith-Learning Integration Strategies in Communication Studies (2022): Christianity and Communication Studies Network (CCSN) Workshop (3.5 hours)

Chair: Dr. Robert Woods, Trinity Western University

Presenters: Dr. Bill Strom, Trinity Western University; Dr. Naaman Wood, Saint Paul College; Dr. Quentin Schultze, Calvin University; Dr. Tim Muehlhoff, Biola University

Improving College Student Retention via the Basic Communication Course and Attachment Theory (2022): ECA Short Course (1.5 hours)

Instructor: David E. Schneider, Saginaw Valley State University

Humanities Learning Community: Running a Study Abroad Trip (2021): WVU Teaching and Learning Commons Q&A (1 hour)

Presenters: Alex Snow, Alyssa Beall, Vanessa Crandall Yerkovich, Tara George-Jones, Dr. Amy Thompson, West Virginia University

Renew and Transform Your Course or Program Curriculum by Teaching Listening (2021): NCA Short Course (3 hours)

Chair: Dr. Molly Stoltz, Frostburg State University

Presenters: Dr. Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University; Dr. Erica Lamm, Concordia University

Using Ethical Reflections to Renew and Transform the Teaching of Objective Communication Theories (2021): NCA Short Course (3 hours)

Chair: Dr. Andrew M. Ledbetter, Texas Christian University; Dr. Em Griffin, Wheaton College

Presenters: Dr. Emily Langan, Wheaton College; Dr. Glenn G. Sparks & Dr. Douglas E. Pruim, Purdue University

Course Organization & Communication (2021): WVU Teaching & Learning Commons Course (3 hours)

Instructor: Eric Matthew Lemley, West Virginia University

Unpacking Allyship and Activism in the Academy (2021): Invited Guest Speaker in *Intergroup Communication* (1 hour)

Presenter: Dr. Amena O. Anderson, West Virginia University

Qualitative Research Design & Navigating the IRB: Let's Get it Started! (2021): ECA Workshop (1.25 hours)

Instructor: Dr. Sarah J. Tracy

Qualitative Coding and Data Analysis Basics: Forging a Path Through the Maze (2021):

ECA Workshop (1.25 hours)

Instructor: Dr. Sarah J. Tracy

Refreshing and Updating Quantitative Research Methods (2021): ECA Workshop (1.25 hours)

Instructor: Dr. Nick Bowman

Refreshing and Updating Quantitative Data Analysis (2021): ECA Workshop (1.25 hours)

Instructor: Dr. Nick Bowman

Teaching Difficult Communication Theories (2020): NCA Short Course (3 hours)

Chair: Dr. Andrew M. Ledbetter, Texas Christian University

Presenters: Dr. Em Griffin & Dr. Emily Langan, Wheaton College; Dr. Glenn G. Sparks & Dr. Douglas E. Pruim, Purdue University

Dispelling the Myths about Open Access: Making Informed Decisions about Open Access Publishing Opportunities (2020): WVU Libraries (1 hour)

Instructor: Susan Arnold, West Virginia University

Fall Hybrid Teaching Institute (2020): WVU Teaching & Learning Commons Course (6 hours)

Instructor: Eric Matthew Lemley, West Virginia University

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Christianity & Communication Studies Network

National Communication Association

Eastern Communication Association (Life Member)

Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Association Honor Society

REFERENCES

Dr. Megan R. Dillow, Associate Professor, West Virginia University

Megan.Dillow@mail.wvu.edu | <https://communicationstudies.wvu.edu/faculty-and-staff/faculty-directory/megan-dillow>

Dr. Andrew M. Ledbetter, Professor, Texas Christian University

a.ledbetter@tcu.edu | https://schieffercollege.tcu.edu/faculty_staff/andrew-ledbetter/

Dr. Paul Schrodtt, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Texas Christian University

p.schrodtt@tcu.edu | https://schieffercollege.tcu.edu/faculty_staff/paul-schrodtt/

Dr. Christine E. Kunkle, Associate Professor, West Virginia University

Christine.Rittenour@mail.wvu.edu | <https://communicationstudies.wvu.edu/faculty-and-staff/faculty-directory/christine-rittenour>

Dr. Alan K. Goodboy, Professor, West Virginia University

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