



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Illinois State University

Doctoral Program in TCH/Communication

Graduate Students

2017-2018



Anna Wright

(Fall 2016 Cohort)

Interest Areas: Communication Education, Instructional Communication

Biography: Anna M Wright (M.S. Illinois State University, 2013) is the Director of Communication Education at Illinois State University. She works with teacher candidates throughout their education which includes advising, teaching communication pedagogy courses, and serving as a student teacher supervisor. She also teaches the basic communication course at ISU and Heartland Community College. Anna is also a doctoral student at Illinois State University. Her research interests include communication education and instructional communication. Her thesis research focused on how student self-disclosure influences instructor efficacy in meeting accommodations for students with disabilities.



Dakota Horn

(Fall 2016 Cohort)

Interest Areas: Instructional Communication, Organizational Policy, K-12 Education

Biography: I received a BA and MA from Western Illinois University in Communication. I have spent time in the private sector before coming back to pursue my doctorate. I have worked at radio stations, insurance marketing offices, United States Congressional office, and served on a Board of Education. I have enjoyed true experiences in multiple facets of communication and bring that knowledge to the classroom. My true passion is teaching but thoroughly enjoy researching instructional communication such as: teacher and student interactions, educational policy, knowledge transfer and many other attributes within the field of education. I enjoy traveling the world with my beautiful wife and spending time with my two German shepherds, Bowser and Reggie. I love talking sports and current events, especially about the Cubs. I look forward to getting to know everyone in my classes as well as spending time discussing potential research. Please take the time to come visit with me throughout the semester, as you will not get to know who I truly am by reading my biography.



Jillian Joyce

(Fall 2017 Cohort)

Interest Areas: Instructional Communication, Interpersonal Communication

Biography: I was born and raised in Las Vegas (which is almost as exciting as it sounds), and attended college in Southern California at Azusa Pacific University.

After graduating in 2012 with a major in Communication and minors in Marketing and Journalism, I worked as an account coordinator and account executive at advertising and public relations agencies. Since moving to Illinois, I have worked as a project manager at a web design and development company with the world's funniest computer nerds. My research interests include teacher and student communication, how to create helpful and positive learning environments, and how to accommodate students with disabilities. My thesis explored the use of a training session to inform teachers on how to accommodate students with disabilities, specifically in the COM110 classroom. As a doctorate student, my goal is to continue my research in classroom accommodation. My non-research interests include traveling to new places, reading books I can't put down, swing dancing, and Giants baseball.



Joshua Fitzgerald

(Fall 2017 Cohort)

Interest Areas: Computer-Mediated-Communication, Instructional Communication, Persuasion

Biography: I achieved my Bachelor's Degree in 2012 and my Master's Degree in 2017, both from Western Illinois University. After graduating with my BA, I decided to enter the workforce doing sales and collections. After a few years, I decided to return to WIU in the Fall of 2015 with the hopes of attaining a master's, and more specifically, a teaching assistantship. As luck would have

it, I was selected to teach an introduction to public speaking course for most of my time as a graduate student at WIU. During this time, I found great enjoyment in educating students and realized it was wanted I would like to do as a career. I enjoy the student/teacher relationship and seeing students grow throughout the course of the semester. My research interests revolve mainly around computer-mediated-communication because technology is continuously changing how people communicate. Understanding these changes and specifically how educators could conceivably improve the educational process from recognizing these changes is what I hope to explore. I am continuing my education, as well as continuing to teach communication, to hopefully become a full-time professor at a university. I am excited to meet my classmates, coworkers and of course, the new students. My non-educational interests include running, playing guitar poorly and movies. I find great enjoyment in music and love attending live concerts (ISU's JoJo concert during the Spring 17' semester was a great show by the way).



Samantha Dunn

(Fall 2016 Cohort)

Interest Areas: Basic Communication Course, Instructional Communication

Biography: I am from Mitchell, SD. I went to the University of South Dakota for English Education and taught a 7th, 8th, and 9th grade English. I went to Iowa State University and fell in love with teaching the Basic Course and helping others teach it too! I am as passionate studying and teaching communication. I'm looking into the construct and the building of cultural competence and international students and staff's experiences in higher education. I look forward to seeing what I discover in the next few years. Outside of work, I enjoy quilting, embroidering, and crocheting—all while watching whichever show or movie I can find, or listening to a good audio book. And on Sundays, I'll be rooting for the Minn. Vikings.

