



Master's Program in Communication

Incoming Graduate Students

2021-2022



My name is **Ismail Cem Addemir**, but you can call me Ishmael. I received my A.A. degree from College of DuPage before obtaining my B.A. last spring from North Central College in Philosophy and Communication Studies. In communication, I am drawn to the interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks used to analyze the impact language has on shaping culture and society. My interests include Media Criticism, Rhetorical Criticism, and Intercultural Communication. Also, I plan on pursuing my Ph.D. Beyond the academic world, you may catch me longboarding around town, or find me reading philosophy/sci-fi while drinking a Turkish coffee.



I am **Tom Arbogast**, and I am a native Illinoisan and currently live in Normal. I have attended Western Illinois University (political science & public administration) and the University of Kansas (education). I am most interested in mass communication, organizational communication, and public relations. I applied to this program because of its reputation and because it provides me the flexibility to continue working as an IT professional while pursuing a master's degree in communication.



My name is **Jessica Barringer**. I am from Clinton, which is about 30 minutes south of ISU. I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan with a bachelor's degree in English (Writing Concentration). I currently work in the ISU College of Ed. as an assistant to the associate dean, and I have also worked in corporate communications for the insurance industry. I am also a freelance copy editor. I am interested in Organizational and Instructional Communication, and I would also like to further explore how the evolving use of technology can impact communication efforts.



I'm **Aelsa Butler Woods**, and I'm excited to join the School of Communication as a graduate student! I studied music in undergrad with the goal of someday working in orchestra administration. I loved ISU when I was here to get my first degree, so I was thrilled to have the opportunity to come back. I can't wait to integrate knowledge in a new area into my work in the music field! I live in Bloomington with my husband, stepson, and pets.



My name is **Joshua Crockett**, and I was born and raised in LaSalle, IL but journeyed to BloNo to attend Heartland Community College where I transferred to ISU from. I earned my B.S. in Political Science with a minor in Civic Engagement and Responsibility from ISU this past May, and I can't wait to begin my graduate studies. I have a (probably unhealthy) love and passion for political communication because even the boring nuances and details of government policy require the ability to tell a story about who we are and what we value.



My name is **Kristen Dehart**, I was born and raised in the Bloomington/Normal area and got my Bachelors in IMC at Illinois State University. I currently work full-time at State Farm Insurance Companies as an acquisition specialist. In the future, I want to be in PR and figured continuing my education would be the next logical step!



My name is **Emily Deppermann**, and I graduated from Illinois State with a BS in Public Relations in December 2020. My interest in and passion for PR is what inspired me to apply for this program. Originally, I am from Glasford, IL, which is a very small, rural town about an hour from Bloomington-Normal. During my undergrad experience at ISU, I was president of ISU's student chapter of the Association for Women in Communication, and now, I am still involved with the organization as a Director on our National Board. I am also a communication graduate assistant in the Office of Alumni Engagement!



My name is **Tristin Evans**! I am from a Kearns, Utah (it's just outside of Salt Lake so basically, I am from Salt Lake). I attended Utah State University where I received my Bachelor's in Communication Studies! I spent my first two years of college at the College of Southern Idaho where I received my Associate's Degree and played collegiate softball for two years. My areas of interest include family and interpersonal communication. I applied to ISU because one of my mentors went here and because ISU has one of the top programs! I love just about any sport and love being outside! If anyone knows of a slow pitch team that needs an extra person let me know.



My name is **Artemisa [air-teh-mee-sah] Godinez**, but I go by Temisa for short. I graduated from ISU in 2018 with my bachelor's degree in Organizational and Leadership Communication and a Sociology minor. I'm excited to return to ISU for my master's degree to increase my skillset and expertise to launch myself into a career in training and development. I love reading, listening to podcasts, and drinking as much Fusion Brew as I possibly can. During quarantine I got married, started a podcast with my sister, and started practicing aerial silks.



My name's **Mary Katreeb**, and I'm from the San Francisco Bay Area, CA. I just graduated in May from California State University, East Bay with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, emphasis in Media Studies. I am interested in rhetoric, civic engagement, and mass communication. After this program, I intend to pursue a Ph.D. because my ultimate career goal is to be a professor at a four-year university. A fun fact about me is that I'm a lifelong martial artist with a black belt in nontraditional Taekwondo and MMA.



My name is **Kaylin Lane**, and I currently reside in Morton, IL. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations at ISU in May and enjoyed the atmosphere of the School of Communication, so I applied to the graduate program. My academic area of interest is media writing. I am excited to gain more knowledge and experience in this area and others. After obtaining my master's degree, I plan to work as a professor. My dream is to work as a professor near the ocean, with the people and pets I love most.



My name is **Shelby Limbach** (She/Her), I'm originally from Indianapolis and graduated from Augustana College with a bachelor's in Political Science and Communication Studies. I'm so excited to continue studying communication and getting to be a GTA – especially as we transition back to in-person after the crazy year we've all had. My particular favorite areas of communication are mass communication and rhetoric. In my free time you can find me out on a run, reading a book, binging something on Netflix, or hanging with friends.



I'm **Gladys Momade** from the Volta Region in Ghana. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies from the University of Cape Coast in Cape Coast, Ghana. I am very much interested in public relations, rhetoric, and interpersonal communication which is why I applied to the School of Communication at the Illinois State University. The master's program here is highly ranked, I'm learning from the best faculty and yes, I'm already enjoying my time here at ISU.



My name is **Taylor Newswander**, and I am from Aledo, IL (which is in the middle of nowhere about 2 hours northwest of ISU). I received my bachelor's in Public Relations with a minor in Political Science from ISU in December 2020. I enjoy interpersonal communication, but I have a soft spot for communication theory in general. Bloomington-Normal has been a great home to me for the last 4 years, and I am excited to continue to live, work, and study here for a couple more years with new and old friends and classmates alike.



I am **Curren O'Connell**. I graduated from Northern Kentucky University in May 2020, where I received my bachelor's in Electronic Media & Broadcasting. I will be moving to Illinois from Rhode Island where I spent a year of my COVID Quarantine. I am excited to be pursuing the mass media discipline within the communication program at ISU. I applied for the program to expand my knowledge of mass communication as it pertains to media outlets, such as radio, news, and social sites.



My name is **Courtney Ossola**. I am from Granville, IL, and earned my Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from ISU in May 2020. Due to the pandemic and my own mental health, I took a gap year following graduation to refocus my energy. I decided to apply to the master's program because I wanted to develop myself further as a writer and an academic. I'm most interested in studying mass media. In my free time, I love to knit, do yoga, watch movies, and spend time with my two (perfect) cats.



My name is **Austin Otey**, and I am a lifelong resident of Bloomington-Normal. I graduated from ISU in December 2020 earning my bachelor's degree in organizational and leadership communication. My academic interests include interpersonal communication, health communication, public speaking, and rhetoric. I am pursuing my master's degree in order to make myself a more competitive employment candidate. I'm a big supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and would love to work for this organization one day. I enjoy golfing, watching movies, spending time with family, and kickin' it with my three-legged dog named Norm.



My name is **Liz Reed**. I'm from the Hocking Hills area of Southeastern Ohio and graduated from Marietta College in 2020. My major was strategic communication with an emphasis in organizational communication and PR with a minor in leadership studies and a certificate in health communication. My favorite topics are interpersonal and health communication. In my free time I love to bake, drink coffee, and hang out with my pets. I'm super excited to meet everyone and hopefully figure out my future career path.



My name is **Benjamin Brew Sam-Paintsil**. I come from Ghana in the Central Region. I graduated from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana in October 2020 with a Bachelor's in Communication Studies where I minored in French and Ghanaian Language for two years. I am excited I'll be spending the next two years of my life at ISU. I've been exposed to several areas of Communication, but I am passionate about concentrating on Public Relations and Organizational Communications. In my free time, I love to travel and hang out with friends.



I'm **Nick Steinmetz** (he/him)! I was born and raised in South Florida and spent the past four years at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. My communication interests include rhetoric, political communication, and media studies. I applied to ISU's communication program because of its great reputation!! When I'm not doing academic work, you can find me listening to showtunes, predicting senate races or watching Survivor!



My name is **Grace Telfer**. I grew up in St. Charles, IL. I just graduated from Augustana College with a Bachelor's in English and Communication Studies and a Minor in Creative Writing. I am very excited to continue my Comm Studies at ISU this upcoming school year and work towards a Master's. Over the last four years I worked in the Office of Student Life at Augustana and it really gave me a passion for student engagement and communication. This really sparked my interest in interpersonal communication. Aside from student engagement and event planning, I also love painting, photography, and iced coffee.



I'm **Hunter Scott Thomas** (he, him, his), but you can call me Hunter. I grew up in Sycamore, IL. I graduated from ISU in the spring of 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Media. My work in media production, comm. and marketing, and event management informs my communication interests in customized communication based on accessibility and cultural preferences and the role it can play in fostering equity and change in social issues. In my free time, I enjoy travel planning, cooking, and running. And I'm always up for an adventure!



I'm **Henrique Villela**. I'm from Fortaleza, a city in the northeast region of Brazil that's sunny all year. I was raised in Brazil's capital, Brasília, and got my bachelor's degree in Journalism at the Federal University of Ceará. I was awarded Best Nonfiction Script at a national conference for my final project, a documentary on foster parents. My research interests include Mass Media and PR. I am a huge movie buff. In my spare time you might find me entertained by dystopian novels, musical theater, live concerts, digital newsletters, as well as curating my Instagram feed, drinking iced tea, or planning trips.



My name is **Maddie Wilson**, and I am incoming from my undergrad at the University of Illinois. I graduated with my Bachelor's in Agricultural Communications and a minor in Food & Environmental Systems. I am primarily interested in organizational communication and marketing/PR, but I am excited to explore other disciplines. My hometown is Philo, IL, which is a tiny town right outside of Champaign. In my free time, I enjoy watching Netflix, trying new coffee and/or wine, thrift shopping with my boyfriend, and decorating my apartment. My favorite time of year is Fall/football season (Go Cowboys!).