



# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

*Illinois State University*

**Master's Program in Communication**

***Incoming Graduate Students***

**Spring 2019**



## Amber Allen

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Organizational Communication, Interpersonal Communication

**Biography:** Hi! I graduated Illinois State University in December with a bachelor's degree in Journalism. I originally got into journalism because I wanted to give the people I interview a voice to tell their stories. I'm thrilled to spend another two years at ISU to continue my education. I am a townie! I attended Normal Community West High School and graduated in 2013. I spent most of my life playing sports like softball and basketball, and majority of my collegiate life I have worked no less than two jobs at a time because I like to keep busy. My hobbies include shopping, spending time with my church group, makeup (I am a freelance makeup artist) and drinking way too much coffee (I firmly believe that espresso runs through my veins). I'm looking forward to meeting my new classmates and finding my passions in grad school!



## Amy Crumbaugh

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Mass Media, Mass Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication

**Biography:** Hello! My name is Amy and I'm a townie just beginning my foray into the world of Communications. I graduated from Columbia College with a BFA in Creative Writing, so transitioning from an art school in downtown Chicago to a traditional university is going to be a bit of a culture shock for me. Nevertheless, I am so excited to delve into this sphere and to meet all of my classmates and professors! I thrive in academic spaces that allow me to be independent and engaged in critical thinking, and I am fascinated by the ways in which mass media and interpersonal communication inform our perceptions of ourselves, especially in regards to women and girls. I have worked with children in various arenas, probably most notably as the Children's Lead at Barnes & Noble in Bloomington, and I believe that art, especially reading and writing, are profoundly vital to children and their growth. I also love to travel, and find beauty in the moments that are "lost in translation," as those are the spaces that allow us the biggest opportunities to study and grow. On a less serious note, I love nature, fashion, art, my Great Dane Dawson, reruns of "The Office," most facets of nerd culture (although I'll give a heavy eye-roll to most superhero movies), trying new foods, good books, and feminist media.



## Carrie Frank

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Organizational Communication, Training & Development, Internal Communication and Employee Engagement

**Biography:** My name is Carrie Frank and I am a December 2018 graduate of Bradley University. I received my B.S. in Organizational Communication. I attended four different schools during my college career and changed my major twice as often. That is why I can say without a shadow of a doubt, a degree in communication was the perfect choice for me. Throughout my time in college, I held several different jobs and internships. I have worked in healthcare, a legislative office, and am currently employed at Caterpillar. I also have volunteer experience with the American Red Cross. I love learning and look forward to the challenge that graduate school will present. When I'm not at school or working, I am likely spending time with my family. I enjoy reading and craft projects of all kinds. I live in Eureka with my boyfriend, Joey, and our two spoiled cats, Maebe and Wilson. I will happily go crazy cat lady and show you pictures of my fur-babies!



## Colleen Wilson

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Psychology of Communications, Leadership Communications, Organizational Change Management

**Biography:** I'm Colleen Wilson, and likely a non-traditional student in this graduate program for Communications. I completed college nearly 35 years ago, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I grew up in Pennsylvania, and migrated to the Mid West after my college graduation. I have spent the last 34 years at State Farm Insurance in Bloomington IL. I have had a very interesting and successful career. I started as a software developer but have spent most of my career in leadership in various areas within the Information Technology department. I am married; my husband is Mike Wilson who worked for State Farm for over 30 years, but is now happily retired. We have 2 daughters; Megan, 22, who is pursuing her PhD in Social Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, and Cassie, 20, who is a sophomore here at Illinois State University, studying Exercise Science. I have always been interested in personal development and now that I have more available time, I am so excited to be a part of this program. Throughout my career, I have experienced the value of effective communication, and the pain of poor communication. I would love to be able to take what I learn either into my current organization, or other organizations that would benefit from effective communication practices. I look forward to studying with and getting to know many of you!



## Delaney Somers

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Public Relations, Organizational Communication, Marketing and Event Planning

**Biography:** Hi! I'm Delaney, but most of my friends call me Dede. I just recently obtained my undergraduate degree in Public Relations and Advertising with a minor in Sport Management a semester early from the University of Southern Indiana. As a townie, I'm happy to be back home to explore more of Illinois State for the next few years. I'm also thrilled to be working as the Communications Specialist and Social Media Manager for the Illinois Art Station this spring. I love being creative and cannot wait to see what new opportunity 2019 has in store. As a student, I hope to dig deeper into Organizational Communication and Event Planning. I dream of being a communication specialist or wedding planner in a tropical location, as Hawaii just keeps calling my name! I'm also that friend who is always cold...so, I try and chase the sun in my free time and love to travel. I am also a huge animal lover, amateur chef, adrenaline junkie and ocean addict. I have a great feeling about 2019 and can't wait to get to know all of you!



## Elena Roth

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Public Relations, Social Media

**Biography:** Hello everyone! I graduated from Illinois State this past December with a Bachelor's of Science in Public Relations and History. I began my college career as a History major. It is a subject I have had a deep passion for my entire life. Halfway through college, I discovered that none of the jobs a history major can acquire appealed to me. After some research, I decided to take an Intro to Public Relations course to see if I enjoyed the topic. I quickly found a love for the subject and major, and the rest is history! As a student, I hope to dig deeper into Public Relations. Since I was a history major first, most of my electives are in that major. By working towards this Master's degree, I hope to expand my knowledge of Public Relations even further, and learning what I did not have a chance to during my undergrad. I would also love to pursue social media more, since most of the jobs or internships I have held had an element of social media to them. I also hope to open myself up to other areas of communication that I do not have experience in. My favorite things to do are to travel (I spent a summer abroad and now have the travel bug), read books for pleasure (mostly historical or historical fiction), and relax with a good cup of tea.

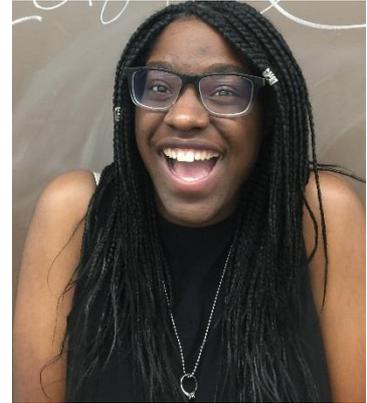


## Regina “Gina” Sanders

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Mass Media, Broadcast

**Biography:** Hello all! My name is Gina and I am from Belleville, Illinois. I graduated from Greenville University in December 2018 earning my Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and a minor in English. I am a proud military brat. I was born in Landstuhl, Germany. At three years old my family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas before retiring in Illinois. During my time as an undergraduate student I held various campus jobs. For three seasons I served as the manager for the men’s soccer team. I also had the honor of serving as a Resident Chaplain, probably more commonly known to most as a Resident Assistant during my time at Greenville. Outside of academics and work, I enjoy podcasting with Unmistakably Star Wars (a podcast dedicated to positivity and discussing the latest Star Wars news), going to the movies, and attending the theatre. I am excited to be on this journey with you all.



## Tamanna Tasmin

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Public Relations, Persuasive Communication, Communication Research, Health Communication, Political Communication

**Biography:** This is Tamanna from Bangladesh here. You can also call me Tammy. I have completed both my BBA and MBA in 2012 from University of Dhaka, the highest ranked educational institute of my country. I am a hyper active person and couldn’t wait to start off my career till the end of graduation. I started working in research projects with my professor from the last semester of BBA. I started working part time in an advertising agency while continuing my MBA. Like everyone else, my first job at the advertising agency was my first love. During this period I was introduced to BHCC (Behavioral and Social Change Communication) for development projects which eventually motivated me to pursue my future career in communication of development sector. Those 14 months gave me first-hand experience of improving lifestyle among deprived population of my country by using communication. Since there is serious lack of professional guidance in this field in Bangladesh, I opted for brand communication till I acquire enough experience but kept the flame of desire for higher education in communication light up back in my mind. Immediately after my graduation, I started working full time as a brand specialist. Till now I’ve worked in five different industries like, electronic media, systems integration, consumer research, advertising agency and local conglomerate. As I have almost 6 years of work experience, I believe this is the high time for me to acquire adequate knowledge on communication and continue my career in respective field. After completing my masters, I have plans to pursue PHD and later on continue my career in development sector. As a person, I love traveling and experiencing new things. I am a novice photographer and an avid reader. I love listening to new ideas and stories. I’m looking forward to enjoy my upcoming adventure as a red bird.



## Winnie Kimani

(Spring 2019 Cohort)

**Interest Areas:** Organizational Communication, International Public Relations, Interpersonal Communication

**Biography:** I was born and raised in Kenya, Africa (a country as beautiful as you might have heard/read about before), and attended colleges in Kenya at Moi and KCA Universities. After graduating in 2014 with a major in Communication and minors in Graphics and advertising, I worked as a Marketing and Sales Coordinator and Account Executive at advertising and public relations agencies. Learning about public speaking, critical thinking, marketing communication, and organizational behavior during my undergraduate studies boosted my confidence and presentation skills in the professional world and introduced me to opportunities that I did not previously think existed. In light of these, the multiple facets of communication and experience in the corporate world challenged me to increase my knowledge in these areas by joining a master's program. I tried to select the best school whose program corresponds with what I want to be in life. The communication program at the Illinois State University made to the top of my list. I am inspired by the need to learn and explore further the human communication processes. I thoroughly enjoy researching areas in Organizational Communication and International Public relations: Interests range from a deeper understanding of communication behaviors in an organization, status changes in an organization, administrative behavior, conflict resolution, understanding global marketing and PR, language and culture, and golden age of social media. While not in class or office, I enjoy a quiet time with friends and family, writing and reading fiction books, and listening and sometimes dancing to music. My friends think I am funny, I don't think I am 😊

